



COMMISSION ON AGING

March 15, 2022

The Honorable House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones
H-101 State House Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Speaker Jones,

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging to express our very strong **support** for **HB0008** – The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program (aka Time to Care Act of 2022)). Our concern is for family members who will need care for their older loved ones during periods of recovery, rehabilitation, or longer term illness.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging (COA) is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise County government on the needs, interests and issues of Older Adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

As the population of older adults continues to grow throughout the State, it is essential that family members have the opportunity to take care of their loved ones without having to sacrifice their ability to have an income. Adult family members can give the special kind of support needed to provide critical care for their loved ones as a result of the provisions in this legislation. The Time to Care Act also enables older adults who need care to stay in their home or community longer, knowing that they are well taken care of and thus reducing the extra institutional cost burdens. Being cared for by a family member can help to reduce loneliness and social isolation that often happens when older adults are institutionalized for care. More importantly, the Time to Care Act will mean that family members do not have to choose between the job and taking care of their loved ones.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging firmly believes that the passage of the Time to Care Act of 2022 is both necessary and timely. It will be an important step to ensuring the older adults in need are taken care of by the people that love them the most. We strongly support HB0008.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Selter

Barbara Selter, Chair
Commission on Aging

cc: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Delegate Lily Qi
Delegate Pamela Queen

Department of Health and Human Services

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