



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FEB 9 2017

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SUPPORT – HB 1/SB 230-17 Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act

Dear Senator Middleton & Delegate Davis:

In October 2015 the Prince George's County Council adopted a resolution, CR-52-2015, to support a statewide standard for Paid Sick and Safe Leave in the Maryland General Assembly. The Council overwhelmingly approved the resolution by a vote of 8-0-1. This year, there are two bills that attempt to address the challenges that many working Marylanders face when they or a family member falls ill.

One is HB 382/SB 305-17, the Commonsense Paid Leave Act, a new proposal by Governor Larry Hogan. We appreciate the Governor's proactive approach to addressing this issue and look forward to further dialogue as the General Assembly session progresses. There are some proposals in HB 382/SB 305-17, including a staggering of penalty provisions and use of some tax credits for small businesses, that may be worthy of further consideration by the General Assembly.

However, HB 1/SB 230-17 – the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, a version that passed the House of Delegates last year, addresses many of the provisions we articulated in our 2015 resolution. As drafted, this bill provides paid sick and safe leave to employees who are currently not receiving the benefit; prohibits retaliation or discrimination against employees for exercising their earned sick and safe leave benefits; requires that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking be able to use earned sick and safe leave to seek medical care and other relevant services; and prescribes provisions for implementing and enforcing statewide earned sick and safe leave for employees in the State of Maryland.

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SUPPORT – HB 1/SB 230-17 Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act

There is an urgent need for paid sick and safe leave in the State of Maryland and especially Prince George's County. Everyone gets sick, but not everyone can take time off when they do. Our constituents are going to work sick or sending a sick child to school, because staying home means losing needed income or risking being fired – this is unacceptable.

Therefore, the Prince George's County Council fully supports HB 1/ SB 230-17 and respectfully requests your FAVORABLE consideration of its position.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derrick L. Davis', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Derrick L. Davis
Chairman
Prince George's County Council

cc:

Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Maryland Governor
Honorable Boyd K. Rutherford, Maryland Lt. Governor
Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Senator, District 21
Honorable Jay Walker, Delegate, District 26
Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive
Prince George's County Council Members
Robert J. Williams, Jr., Prince George's County Council Administrator
William M. Hunt, Prince George's County Deputy Council Administrator
Glenda R. Wilson, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive