



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Chairman**  
**Derrick Leon Davis**  
Council Member, District 6

February 10, 2016

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

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

**Re: SUPPORT – A STATEWIDE STANDARD FOR PAID SICK AND SAFE LEAVE**

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 legislation by a vote of 8-0-1. The resolution was an attempt to combat the lack of paid sick and safe leave. This lack forces Marylanders across the State to come to work when they are ill or send sick children to school because they have no ability to earn paid sick leave.

Additionally, the intent of the resolution is to support the prohibition of retaliation or discrimination against employees for exercising their earned sick and safe leave benefits. The threat of this discrimination is a significant problem, especially amongst women in the workforce. The Prince George's County Council understands women's need for protection as it relates to paid sick and safe leave. For the typical family without paid sick days, just 3.5 days without pay is equivalent to losing an entire month's grocery budget. For single-parent families, which are usually headed by women, the vulnerability is even more drastic.

There is an urgent need for paid sick days in the State of Maryland and especially Prince George's County. 40 percent of private sector workers – and nearly 80 percent of low wage workers – are unable to earn paid sick days. Over half of full-time Maryland workers who earn less than \$35,000 annually lack access to paid sick days. No one is immune to sickness and everyone deserves the time to recover without risking economic stability.

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The Prince George's County Council fully supports a statewide standard for Paid Sick and Safe Leave in the Maryland General Assembly and requests your favorable report on this legislation.

Regards,



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