



Representative Janine Boyd
9th House District
Sponsor Testimony
HB 91- Paid Family and Medical Leave

Good morning- Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs and esteemed Members of the Ohio House Committee on Insurance. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my testimony with you all today, alongside my joint sponsor of HB 91, and really get into our Paid Family and Medical Leave bill with you.

Back in the 90s, when my mother served in her first 8 years in the people's House, my grandmother- my mom's mom- was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and breast cancer. We as a close knit family, with solid resources- the individual and collective ability to advocate for my grandma Sarah and for ourselves; a 2 income household; a rotation of caregivers whom we selected based on recommendations from trusted friends; and the support of family and extended family who lived nearby, we were lucky enough to be able to care for her in our home. The fact is that over 75 percent of people who take a leave of absence from work in the US, do so to care for a seriously ill, injured, elderly or disabled loved one; his or her own serious personal injury, illness or disability, or to address the deployment or injury of a military service member in their family. 1 in 6 Americans provide unpaid care for an aging or chronically ill parent, or a person with disabilities. 70% of people caring for their parents are more likely to fall into poverty due to their dual roles.

Around 10,000 people in the US are turning 65 every day, the need for time to care for our loved ones is only increasing. With a paid family leave policy to help with in-home care and support, we can age with dignity and get the kind of affordable care we need, in the setting we want to receive it.

The opioid problem in this state is not getting better. We continue to see this disease kill 14 people every day. That's almost 5,000 families a year destroyed.

That leaves children in need of care, whether it's kinship, adoption, or foster care. This policy is a solution to help these newly formed families come together and adjust to their new environment without the economic anxieties of taking unpaid time off work. And, honestly, we can not discuss maternal and infant mortality as a legislative priority, without discussing legislation like HB 91, and the lifesaving chance it can give to working pregnant women who require amended work hours or bedrest, more frequent doctor visits, for their health and the health of their pregnancy.

Governor DeWine and this legislature have made commitments in this general assembly to identifying ways to improve support for children and I believe this is one of the steps we must take.

Thank you Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani, and the Members of the Insurance Committee for taking the time to hear from us and learn about the value a Paid Family and Medical Leave bill will have in the lives of Ohioans who participate in the program, and the savings that employers will see from HB 91, versus costly employee turnover. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.