

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Joe Pittman Senate Majority Leader 350 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120 The Honorable Kim Ward President Pro Tempore 292 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Support The Family Care Act, led by Sen. Devlin Robinson

Dear Senate Majority Leader Pittman and President Pro Tempore Ward:

As a representative of the 2,200 Pennsylvania small businesses in our network, Small Business Majority urges you to pass The Family Care Act led by Senator Devlin Robinson, which would create a paid family and medical leave insurance fund in Pennsylvania. This program would allow small business owners to access and offer this benefit to their employees, helping them overcome challenges in the workforce.

Small Business Majority empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations nationwide to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth. A key component of our work involves outreach to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including access to capital, workforce issues and healthcare.

Small business owners want to offer their employees competitive benefits but cannot afford to do so on their own. The Family Care Act will help them attract and retain employees who need to take time off to care for themselves or their families, either during a serious illness or to care for a new child. When small businesses can affordably offer paid family and medical leave, they help support their employees while being able to better compete with larger corporations that often already provide these types of benefits.

Additionally, a <u>recent poll of voters</u> in Pennsylvania shows strong bipartisan support for paid family leave. In fact, it found that 81% of voters overall support paid family and medical leave and 78% of voters want small businesses to be able to offer it. This reinforces <u>our research</u> conducted in late 2024, which found strong small business support for proposals that provide paid medical leave and parental leave. Seventy-eight percent of Pennsylvania small business owners support the creation of a national paid family and medical leave program that would guarantee employees wage replacement for up to 12 weeks. What's more, 92% agree that employee morale is better when they know they can take care of themselves and their families if needed without losing their job.

The state has a unique opportunity to create a system that supports the small business community. Passing The Family Care Act would bolster Pennsylvania's economy by providing small business owners with access to the benefits they need to attract a robust workforce and continue supporting our communities. We urge you to vote yes on The Family Care Act to create a paid family and medical leave program and support the small business community.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash Senior Public Policy Director Small Business Majority