



July 9, 2019

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair
Representative Paul Brodeur, House Chair
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: An Act relative to the creation of a paid family and medical leave advisory board, HB 1683

Dear Chair Jehlen, Chair Brodeur and Committee members:

As you are well aware, the Commonwealth adopted landmark legislation over one year ago, on June 28, 2018, establishing the paid family and medical leave program. This comprehensive new law was forged following months of detailed negotiations between legislative and executive leaders, members of the Raise Up Massachusetts coalition and representatives from the business community all working collaboratively to achieve a meaningful compromise.

We support and believe there is a need for a family and medical leave advisory board. HB 1683 would create such an advisory board to monitor and work with the new department of family and medical leave. As filed, HB 1683 would create an advisory board that would mirror similar advisory bodies, such as the worker's compensation advisory council and the department of unemployment assistance advisory council. Accordingly, we ask that you work with us regarding the proposed family and medical leave advisory board before reporting out HB 1683.

As we embark on full scale implementation of the new paid family and medical leave program, which will impact millions of workers across the state and tens of thousands of employers, the members of the Raise Up Massachusetts coalition and representatives from the business community are working together to ensure a successful rollout of this new program.

As always, should you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly at 617-262-1180 or bmacdougall@aimnet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad MacDougall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad MacDougall
Vice President for Government Affairs
Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)