



Support Through Loss Act

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) & Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Background

While often underreported, pregnancy loss is a common occurrence. It is estimated that pregnancy loss occurs in 10-15% of known pregnancies. Due to a lack of public awareness and cultural stigma, many people are unaware of how prevalent pregnancy loss is until their family experiences it firsthand. Even though pregnancy loss is an experience shared across communities and backgrounds, a lack of accurate information can often foster an isolating experience.

Pregnancy loss and unsuccessful fertility treatment, adoption or surrogacy arrangements take a physical and mental toll, and this private trauma is often compounded by a harsh status quo that fails to provide individuals and families time to grieve and heal. Furthermore, too many workers have been forced to stay at work to finish a big presentation while experiencing a miscarriage or have struggled to maintain focus in the aftermath of receiving life-changing fertility news. This is the cruel reality in far too many workplaces across the Nation, and Federal labor law has failed to address an unfortunately all too common need.

Bill Summary

Senator Duckworth's and Representative Pressley's pro-family, pro-worker *Support Through Loss Act* aims to shed light on these shared experiences and help ensure that those experiencing the loss of a pregnancy are fully supported with access to resources, workforce supports, and patient centered care. The bill does this by:

- Require employers provide at least seven days of paid leave for workers to process and address health—including mental health—needs following a pregnancy loss; an unsuccessful assisted reproductive technology procedure, adoption arrangement or surrogacy arrangement; or a medical diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility;
- Direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and disseminate educational resources for the public regarding pregnancy loss and the range of treatment options for pregnancy loss, including recurrent pregnancy loss; and
- Provides \$45 million in annual funding for the National Institutes of Health to expand, intensify and coordinate research and programs with respect to pregnancy loss.