

Our economy isn't working for too many people, and it is even more difficult for women.

I support HB 6932 and HB 6784 because they allow workers to balance caring for their families and their jobs.

In my own life, I have an elderly father who lives in an assisted living facility in Massachusetts. I received a call at work that he was sent to the hospital, so I left work to be with him. I only have so many days of paid vacation and sick leave so I had to lose an afternoon's pay. Although I am an educated woman, I work for a non-profit for very little money and so I try to save what days I have for emergencies.

Sometimes we run out of paid days off, and then we get people coming to work with the flu or other contagious illnesses. There has to be a better way to care for our families, as well as ourselves.

I want to make one more comment: Opponents of paid leave opine that low-wage workers are just trying to shirk their jobs, but we have the primary job of taking care of our families. That shouldn't be too much to ask. It won't break the bank of most businesses, and might even help morale and productivity.

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