

I support SB221 for Paid Family and Medical Leave!

I support Sb 221 because the United States is the ONLY industrialized country in the world that does not guarantee paid leave for its workers – and it's shameful.

How can we allow a hard working Connecticut resident to be fired for taking extended time off for medical emergencies, or caring for a seriously ill family member or new baby.

It is time for Connecticut to be leader in protecting hard working Connecticut residents. Pass SB 221 Paid Family and Medical leave!

Thank you for your consideration.
Thomas Connolly
06107

I support SB 221. We need a Paid Family and Medical Leave program to protect workers and their families. We are human beings with human needs. We need to have paid maternity leave, sickness leave and/or for serious illnesses of loved ones. If other nations in the world offer this to their citizens....why not the United States of America???

Maxine Hayes
06776

Malgorzata Fiodorow
05602

Jean Low
06002

Having to take time off a few years ago for a medical issue caused us irreparable financial damage. Between that and no healthcare coverage forced us into bankruptcy.

Theresa McSpedon
06755

As a university faculty member I had paid medical and family leave time for over 40 years. Most workers in many other countries have the same--in many other countries. Even in our country administrators, executives, and many other professionals have paid medical and family leave. I have never understood WHY workers in the USA so rarely have such benefits. Having travelled in other countries during my career I have found this question of our usual treatment of workers to be an embarrassing issue, often raised and impossible to respond to, except to mumble something vapid like "well you have to understand our system.": How can we expect any other country to respect us when we continue to permit a system that substantially over-rewards and provides often luxurious benefits for those who make the economic decisions that affect everyone's livelihood, while the incomes and benefits of our working people stagnate; This does not happen in many other countries and need not continue here if only there were sufficient will to shape our "system" toward justice and fair reward for labor. Our self-respect, not to mention the respect of other countries, which we hope to lead, will also benefit.

I URGE YOU TO VOITE FOR SB 221.

Thank you.

Benjamin Page

06410

Currently, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 does not cover about half of the workforce, placing unfair burdens on working mothers and fathers as they attempt to balance the physical and financial hardships of childbirth until they return to work. With fewer companies offering paid family leave than over a decade ago and a steady increase in the number of female employees, concerns surrounding the issue of paid family leave may progressively push policy makers at all levels of government to recognize the issue as a national concern. Mothers and fathers across the country who are not covered by FMLA or cannot afford to take the unpaid leave are the hidden participants of the debate over paid family leave. In the book, *The War on Moms: On Life in a Family-Unfriendly Nation*, young women who otherwise would not have been able to share their experiences as both employees and new mothers, describe what it was like for them to have to go back just days after giving birth. Cano, a 22-year old woman who worked full-time at Wal-Mart, said that although she was entitled to leave under FMLA she was not able to take time off due to financial constraints. Although Cano had a difficult labor and bled so extensively that she required two transfusions, she was soon back to work "as if nothing had happened". There are millions of hidden participants in the fight for paid family leave whose voices are only heard on those rare occasions when someone asks them how they were able to manage both work and family

responsibilities. You shouldn't have to worry about lost income in an already stressful time of treating a medical issue or caring for a seriously ill family member.

Workers shouldn't have to choose between their health and their paycheck.
Bridget Healy

Unable to access a job with paid medical leave forced me to drop out of the workforce and unable to get a good paying job afterwards; now even 15 years later I cannot find a full time job above minimum wage pay.

Marie Farrell
06498

Without paid family and medical leave, my husband and I have been putting off having children. 6 weeks is a laughable amount of time to enjoy your newborn, and we cannot afford for one of us to stay home without pay. The passing of this bill would allow for a pregnancy that was not tinged with financial fear. Please pass the bill.

Renée Nunley
06854

Workers should be entitled to same benefits as executives!

A Feig
06437

Sabrina Fiodorow
06037

June Maselli
06512

Pamela Joseph
06880

Why can't Americans have the same rights as most people in other civilized countries? Is it because our politicians are not interested in doing their jobs? Is it because our politicians don't care about the average citizens, who work hard all their lives but still have to deal with aging parents, sick spouses or children? Is it because these same politicians are controlled by the corporations that finance their campaigns?

It is time to do something right for Americans. Please support SB 221! Thank You.

Terri Tylor
06851

BECAUSE IT'S A NO BRAINER!
IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
PERIOD.
NANCI WYLDE
06119

I am in support of SB 221 which would drastically improved the workplace leave policies for many workers. We need a Paid Family and Medical Leave program that protects workers and their families so that dedicated and productive employees can focus on addressing their health needs or that of their loved ones, without worrying about whether their wages will be significantly reduced or completely lost during their work absence.

I respectfully ask that you support and vote for SB 221.

Thank you for your consideration and public service.
Maria C. Alfonso
06109

Robert Cavaliero
06905

Myron Neugeboren
06039

Kim Gilbert
06098

I support SB 221. We need a Paid Family and Medical Leave program to protect workers and their families. •Our workplace leave policies aren't working.
•Nearly half of all workers in the United States aren't covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and can be fired for taking extended time off for medical emergencies, or caring for a seriously ill family member or new baby.

- The vast majority of workers who do have access to unpaid leave do not take the time off they need because they cannot afford to lose out on their salaries.
 - Only 12% of workers in the United States have access to any amount of paid maternity leave.
 - The United States is the only advanced country without paid maternity leave. Many countries also grant paid paternity leave.
 - We must create a paid family and medical leave program so worker can take time off to treat serious illnesses, care for family members, and care for new children.
 - You shouldn't have to worry about lost income in an already stressful time of treating a medical issue or caring for a seriously ill family member.
 - Workers shouldn't have to choose between their health and their paycheck.
- Please support this bill so that I can continue to support You in the future.

John Silk
06604

Den O'Neill
06111

The United States of America is one of the richest countries in the world but we have the worst family leave policies. This is unacceptable. We need to take care of families in this country. Without the hard working people of this country, we would not be as successful as we are. Let's make families important again. Pass the bill supporting paid family leave time.

Linda Gannelli
06084

America needs to have healthier workers who live longer, can contribute to the overall good longer, who can pay their taxes longer and are HAPPIER!

All of America needs this bill. Please pass SB 221! To fulfill the promise of our founding fathers, a nation undivided and one in which we can really guarantee the "pursuit of happiness"!!

Tom D'Agostino
06854

I have tenants who, when a family member is sick, must often choose between eating and paying the rent. This is no way to run a state.

William A. Collins
Norwalk, 06851

John Steeves
06405

Nearly half of all workers in the United States aren't covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and can be fired for taking extended time off for medical emergencies, or caring for a seriously ill family member or new baby. We must create a paid family and medical leave program so workers can take time off to treat serious illnesses, care for family members, and care for new children. Workers shouldn't have to choose between their health and their paycheck.

I support SB 221, and I hope you will too. We need a Paid Family and Medical Leave program to protect workers and their families.

John Robinson
06084

Joseph Freeman
06810

Constantina Karageorge
06824

Are we a nation that values families? A nation that protects children? Or a nation that forgets about their understandable and justifiable needs?

Mariann Regan

Linda Arlano
06611

Kimberly Owens
06514

I support SB 221. We need a Paid Family and Medical Leave program to protect workers and their families so long as the cost to employers is minimal and reasonable. Such leave will reduce an employee's stress and make them harder-working and better and also more loyal to the company.

Philip Mayer
06351

Matthew Ford
06511