

Greetings,

My name is Patrick Hadorn and I currently reside in Maple Grove. I am a physician and clinic medical director, practicing Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Park Nicollet Clinic in Maple Grove.

Paid Family Medical Leave is an issue of great personal significance to me. My first daughter was born during my third year of medical residency, in the midst of a busy pediatric intensive care unit rotation. As a new father and husband, I was only able to take 1 week of paid leave through my residency program, before returning to an intense line of work. One night while working in the ICU I spent 45 minutes attempting to resuscitate a 2 year old child, who ultimately passed away. I remember sobbing in the break room, overwhelmed with emotion, and then returning home to my 2 week old baby girl and exhausted wife. To this day, I still struggle with the remnants of guilt and sadness I felt during these first few months of my daughter's life. I think about how much different those first few precious months would have been had I been more present and able to support my wife.

My story is unfortunately common. All across Minnesota families struggle with an unjust system that forces them to choose between their families and their livelihoods. I see this daily in my practice; new moms who must return to work by 6 weeks or risk losing their jobs. An abundance of evidence shows that strong support for families through the first year of a child's life produces better health and long term outcomes in multiple domains.

The choices our government makes now, to help us weather the pandemic, can also set a better course for the future of our communities. Now is the time for us to unite across our differences and make policy choices that help every-day people in pursuit of a safe and thriving state.

As a father, husband and physician caring for families every day in my practice, I ask that you strongly consider passing robust PFML legislation. Minnesotan families of all backgrounds deserve this basic right, and the downstream impact on population and economic health will keep our state near the top in the nation.

In gratitude,

Patrick Hadorn, DO FACP, FAAP
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