

Dear Early childhood Committee

To whom it may concern:

We are in support of the paid family and medical leave as it is important for ALL families in Minnesota. ALL, no exception.

As grandparents, we have been asked to travel miles to come and help take care of our grandchildren when their paid sick leave was gone. There needs to be a better plan for helping parents.

The most important bonding time for babies in the early months, both parents need to have that benefit. Paid family leave would provide that.

Sincerely,

Victoria and Gerald Danielson

Dear Early Childhood Committee,

In my career I counseled many workers who were trying to enter the workforce. Many, if not most of them, had to start by working as a temporary employee, through a temporary employment agency. They did not have a Paid Family and Medical Leave benefit. Often soon after they started the job a health crisis would occur and they were faced with a choice: take care of my child or keep my job. In a tight labor market when there is a lot of unemployment this is a heartbreaking decision to make. Many chose to take care of their child. When meant that when the crisis was over the employee had to start over again to enter the job market. This is one reason for racial disparities in employment in this state. Joe Crowe

Dear Early Childhood Committee:

My daughter-in-law's employer doesn't provide paid family leave or any benefits for that matter. When she gave birth to her son, she had to negotiate with her employer for a month off without pay so she could spend time with her newborn without losing her job. For a new mother trying to bond with her child, that is outrageous and harmful not only for the child's development but the anguish my daughter-in-law suffered to not have that important time with her child. You need to pass Paid Family Leave for the good of babies, mother, children, families, our communities. If we want healthy, well-adjusted children who will grow into adults, Paid Family Leave is a first and important step.

Arline Datu
Saint Paul 55105

Dear Early Childhood Committee,

I am writing in support of Paid Family and Medical Leave. I am 28 years old and do not currently have any children, but if I was to give birth, my current employer would only offer me a single week of paid leave. That means, depending on my financial situation, I might have to return to work a week after having my child. Mothers should not be forced to be separated from their children mere weeks after they are born. There is countless evidence on the harms of this and on the benefits of parents forming strong bonds with their newborn children. I used to work in elementary education and can attest to the importance of a child's bond with their parents to their later education achievement and overall well-being. Paid Family and Medical Leave will only benefit all of Minnesota and the state's residents.

Lindsay Blahnik
St. Paul resident

Dear Early Childhood Family Committee,

I am writing in support of Paid Family and Medical Leave. I spent virtually all of my career working in the area Maternal and Child Health and Children with Special Health Needs. It is crucial parents, babies and young children (and because of my work I would say especially those newborns and children with health needs) have time to bond and meet the medical needs of their newborns and young children. I can attest to the fact that my daughters who are both adopted and spent time in orphanages had significant delays in their development because they didn't have the caregivers to meet their needs! Please do right by these families and pass Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Nancy Vanderburg

Dear Early Childhood committee,

Paid Family and Medical Leave should be accessible to ALL Minnesotans, regardless of their employers.

Babies need to be cared for by their parents for early bonding and success in early childhood.

Parents need to be able to care for their sick children instead of jeopardizing their jobs or leaving them to less-capable care.

Families need to care for their family members without feeling torn about a job or losing its benefits.

This is important to **all** of us!
Julie Abrahamson
Brooklyn Park, MN