

Paid Family Medical Leave is essential for Minnesota families.

When I pregnant with my first child I applied for short term disability through my employer, and because I had a pre-existing condition (migraines) I was denied. My employer gave me 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave, so we were down to only one income. I was on bedrest, and my daughter was premature with jaundice. Along with post-partum depression, in the first week after she was born I got an infection. I also ended having major surgery to have my gall bladder out 6 weeks later. It was a challenge for us.

I was fortunate to have support systems that other families do not have. My Mom helped care for us. I'm grateful for programs like WIC that helped us out with formula when my daughter had troubles breast feeding and the Follow Along program. A Public Health nurse visited us at home to make sure we were ok. These programs are a testament to the power of the collective working together and uniting across differences for the benefit of the health and well-being of present and future Minnesotans.

One final note. As the FMLA Coordinator at my workplace for a company with several thousand employees, I was always stunned to talk to mothers who couldn't afford to take much time off for medical leave after having a child. Usually these were single moms. They didn't have a choice.

Paid Family and Medical Leave. Families will not worry about where their next meal is coming from, how to pay the bills and help us weather the COVID 19 pandemic.

Paid Family and Medical Leave. Dads and Moms can lovingly bond with their newborns.

Paid Family and Medical Leave. Will help get the newest Minnesotans off to a stronger, safer and healthier direction.

Amy Eggert