

Washington Family Leave Coalition

No one should have to choose between their job and their family. When a new baby arrives, when a parent has a stroke, when a spouse is diagnosed with cancer, family has to come first.

Workplace policies have not kept up with society's changes. Today most parents are in the paid workforce, and 4 in 10 workers care for an elderly parent. Yet only about half of private sector workers have paid sick leave, and fewer than half have the right to even unpaid family and medical leave.

When workers have paid time off to deal with routine illnesses and critical family situations, children do better in school, seniors live more independently, and businesses are more productive and profitable.

Washington's Family Leave Coalition includes organizations representing seniors, women, labor, health professionals, children's advocates, faith communities, low income workers, employers, and others. The Coalition advocates for new state policies to promote healthy families, healthy businesses, and healthy communities in the 21st century economy.

Successes:

Family Leave Insurance Act, 2007 – Beginning October 1, 2009, parents of newborn and newly adopted children will be able to take up to 5 weeks off work to care for their new child, with a \$250 per week benefit. Washington is the second state after California to adopt paid family leave.

Washington Family and Medical Leave Act, 2006 – Incorporates provisions of federal law into state law, including the right to up to 12 weeks of unpaid family or medical leave for workers in companies with 50 or more employees. The state law will protect workers in Washington if federal rules change.

Family Care Act, 2002 – Workers in Washington with employer provided sick leave, vacation, or other paid time off may use that leave to care for an ill child, spouse, parent, parent-in-law, or grandparent.

Future Goals:

Expand Family Leave Insurance – to include care of a seriously ill family member and the worker's own serious health condition.

Adopt Minimum Paid Sick Days – so that no one is forced to go to work or school sick, and all workers have access to paid leave for routine health needs of themselves and close family members.

To join the Washington Family Leave Coalition:

- Yes! We want to be part of the Family Leave Coalition
- Please add our name to the Family Leave e-mail alert list

Organization _____ Address _____

Contact Name _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

For more information or to be part of the Family Leave Coalition, please contact:

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