

## Washington Family Leave Coalition: Campaign 2007 Update

March 6, 2007

Dear Friends of Family Leave:

### Family Leave Bill Moves to the Senate Floor for a Vote

**Second Substitute Senate Bill 5659 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Passed Out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Monday, March 5, 2007.**

We made it past the first two cut-offs! Thank you for contacting your legislators.

### Your calls and emails have gotten Family Leave this far Let's take it the rest of the way – Contact your Senator

Find your legislator: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

### What's Next?

Family and Medical Leave Insurance must pass out of the Senate by next **Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The bill is poised to move to the Senate floor. Once it passes out of the Senate, it will move through the House policy and fiscal committees and onto the House floor for a final vote.

### New Statewide Poll Finds Strong Support Across the State for Family and Medical Leave Insurance

A poll of Washington state voters found strong support for the family and medical leave insurance proposal. Overall, **73%** supported the proposal, saying it would promote good family values, give workers peace of mind to care for a new child or elderly parent without fear of losing their job or facing financial crisis, and be good for the economy.

#### Take action! - CONTACT YOUR SENATOR TODAY!

Email a brief message: *2 or 3 lines* or call the hotline 1-800-562-6000

- **Pass 2SSB 5659 Family and Medical Leave Insurance**
- Share your family or medical leave experiences or those of a loved one with your Legislators. Talk about how this program would benefit you and your family.
- Use the *Washington Family and Medical Leave Insurance Quick Facts* (attached) and write a short message highlighting why you believe family and medical leave insurance is important.

2SSB 5659 sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser has the same provisions as HB1658 with some minor technical changes. The bill provides for up to 5 weeks of leave for the birth or placement of a new child, care of a seriously ill family member (child, spouse, domestic partner, or parent), or for the worker's own serious illness. Benefits would be \$250 per week, financed by a premium of 2 cents per hour worked paid by workers - about \$40 per year for a full time worker, or \$3.50 per month (pro-rated for part-time workers).

