

## Washington Family Leave Coalition: Campaign 2007 Update

May 3, 2007

Dear Friends:

### **PAID FAMILY LEAVE TO BE SIGNED INTO LAW! Washington Will Be the Second State in the Nation with Paid Parental Leave**

**Congratulations and thank you for all your  
hard work and dedication to this cause.**

**You really made a difference. Now come and see your handiwork.  
Governor Gregoire is set to sign the Paid Family Leave legislation into law in just  
a few short days.**

**We invite you to join us to mark this momentous day.  
When: Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 2:30pm  
Where: Office of the Governor, Legislative Building, Olympia**

**We hope to see you there!**

### **WASHINGTON PAID FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAM (See the attached Washington Family Leave Program Fact Sheet) SB 5659 Family Leave Insurance**

As adopted, SB 5659 provides for up to 5 weeks of paid leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child. Benefits would be \$250 per week with a one-week waiting period, pro-rated for part-time. All workers who work 680 hours in previous year are eligible regardless of company size. Workers in companies with more than 25 employees would also have job protection. Benefits will begin in October 2009.

During the session, the bill was amended in the Senate and the House. It no longer covers the care of a seriously ill family member or a worker's own illness. Funding for the program is temporarily loaned from the supplemental pension fund, with a taskforce to recommend permanent funding options by the end of this year.

We have succeeded in passing groundbreaking legislation. The Family Leave Coalition will work closely with the taskforce and implementing agency to get family leave off to a good start. We'll also continue to work toward our vision of a society where no one has to choose between being a good family member and a good employee.

**View the bill (SB 5659) that was delivered to the Governor**  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5659-S2.PL.pdf>