

Play Ball!

Must-pass legislation and funding for Washington Family Leave Insurance

Baseball season is long over - but the 2008 legislative session has just begun! Let's take a look at the line-up for family leave insurance in Washington State:

At The Plate:

We won a historic victory in 2007 by establishing Washington's family leave insurance program. This year, to ensure benefits begin on schedule in October 2009, the Washington Legislature must pass [House Bill 2665](#) and [Senate Bill 6280](#). These bills implement recommendations from the Family Leave Insurance Task Force, saving \$5.2 million in one-time start-up costs and \$1.7 million annually in ongoing administrative costs. | [Learn more](#)



The House [Commerce and Labor](#) Committee will hold a hearing on [House Bill 2665](#) Friday, January 17th at 1:30 p.m. in House Hearing Room C, John L. O'Brien Building, Olympia.

The Senate [Labor, Commerce, Research & Development](#) Committee will hold a hearing on [Senate Bill 6280](#) Thursday, January 24th at 3:30 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 4, J.A. Cherburg Building, Olympia.

Tune in to [TVW](#) to watch committee proceedings live!

On Deck:

Governor Gregoire's supplemental budget for 2008-09 includes \$6.2 million for family leave start-up costs for the Employment Security Department to set up computer systems, develop information for employers and workers, and take other actions to establish family leave insurance. Budget hearings will begin soon - watch for hearings in the House [Appropriations](#) and Senate [Ways and Means](#) Committees.

Warming Up:

Long-term funding is under discussion for an expanded family leave program covering care of sick family members and the worker's own illness along with new children. Financing could come from a payroll tax, much like in California and other states with similar programs.

Fan Support:

Thanks to your hard work, phone calls and letters, Washington has a family leave law on the books that will strengthen families, promote early learning and public health, and bolster our state's commitment to giving every child a strong and healthy start in life. With your support, we can pass these bills and fully fund family leave insurance. Stay tuned as the legislative process unfolds, so you can make your voice heard for Washington's families.

Great Happiness Awaits Those Who Fully Fund Family Leave Insurance



Good fortune will smile on state legislators who support legislation to fully fund Washington State's Family Leave Insurance law, according to online grassroots activist organization, [MomsRising.org](#). | [Learn more](#)

About the Washington Family Leave Coalition

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

