

Family Leave Insurance - the final sprint

Yikes! With only a couple of weeks left in the legislative session, we need to make sure start-up funds for family leave insurance get to the finish line.

We need your help to thank Senate budget committee leaders for putting start-up funding and specific language in their proposed budget that ensures Washington will be ready to provide paid family leave benefits to our children and their parents on schedule in October 2009.

The end of session is a chaotic time in the state capitol, and sometimes important items fall through the cracks. Our Senators need to hear your voice to make sure family leave insurance start up funds aren't forgotten.



TAKE ACTION NOW: The Senate budget committee is scheduled to vote on Wednesday! Please thank your Senator right now for providing start-up funding for family leave insurance, and encourage them to keep the funding and budget language intact all the way through final passage.

Just click [here](#) to get started. (The link will open at MomsRising.org, a partner in the Washington Family Leave Coalition. You can edit the email to say whatever you'd like.)

And please also take a moment to use the link at the bottom of this page to forward this email along to friends and family so they can take action too.

Stay tuned! Legislators must approve the budget by March 13. We'll have more updates as the budget debate unfolds over the next few weeks.

Washington Family Leave Insurance - A Summary

Timing: Washington is the second state after California to adopt paid family leave. Washington's family leave insurance program was signed into law in May, 2007. Benefit payments begin October 1, 2009.

Who's Eligible: All parents of newborn or newly adopted children who have worked at least 680 hours in the previous year (same requirement as Unemployment Insurance).

Benefits: \$250 per week for up to 5 weeks (after a 1 week waiting period), prorated for people working less than 35 hours per week.

Job Protection: For workers in companies with more than 25 employees, who have been with that employer at least a year and worked at least 1,250 hours in the previous year. No worker may be discharged or discriminated against for taking paid family leave.

Elective Coverage: Self-employed people and those otherwise not covered may elect coverage, initially for a minimum of 3 years.

Employer Protections: At least 10 provisions of the new law protect employers, and employers are free to provide more generous leave benefits if they desire.

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](#)

