



July 25, 2016

Hon. Patty Murray  
U.S. Senator  
154 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. Representative  
2413 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murray and Representative DeLauro,

As an organization committed to helping all children thrive in school and in life, we applaud you for leading the fight to ensure Americans access to paid sick days from their jobs. Paid sick days are an essential factor in improving the chances of all children to grow up healthy. And that's why we are writing to express our full support for The Healthy Families Act (S. 497/H.R. 932), which would guarantee up to 7 days of job protected paid sick days per year for all employees in the U.S. who work for businesses with 15 or more employees.

Tens of millions of parents and hundreds of thousands of teachers across the country consistently rely on [Common Sense](#), a national non-profit, for our independent ratings, reviews, and high-quality educational resources and materials that help parents and teachers navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world for their children and students. Now parents and teachers look to us for [our legislative ratings](#) too, and we are pleased to say that we are sharing our "*For Kids*" rating of this bill with members and users of Common Sense.

The Healthy Families Act will improve the lives of children and their working parents or guardians across the country. As you already know, research shows that paid sick leave is good for kids for many reasons:

- Parents with paid sick days are 20% less likely to send a sick child to school.
- When parents are able to take days off to care for their sick children, those children recover faster and reduce the risk of infecting classmates.
- More than one in four parents of a child who suffers from asthma (28%) have missed one of their child's medical appointments because they were not able to take time off work.

When children are sick, they need their parents or guardians to help them get well, either by staying home or visiting a doctor. And that takes time – during the day. But too many Americans, in fact, at least 43 working Americans, many of whom are low-income workers, do not have access to paid sick leave to care for themselves or for their children. Without paid sick days, parents are forced to choose between financial stability and the health of their children. Many parents send their kids to school sick rather than risk losing their job or needed income. That's a recipe for disaster – either spreading illness in childcare or school settings, creating

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additional stress at home that is unhealthy for children, or making it more difficult for working parents to rise higher up the economic ladder.

Of course, your legislation does not just help children – it also strengthens the economy for everyone, employers and employees alike. For one, paid sick days create greater efficiencies in health care, helping to reduce avoidable emergency room visits. And job retention policies like paid sick days help to reduce unemployment and employee turnover and strengthen the economy. This is shown to be true in cities and states like San Francisco, New York City, and Connecticut. In San Francisco, more than two in three businesses support paid sick days law, and four years after its paid sick days law was enacted, San Francisco was ranked as one of the best cities for successful businesses worldwide. In New York City, less than 1 year after implementing paid sick days, the city had the lowest unemployment rate in 6 years. And in Connecticut, more than three quarters of employers support paid sick days law.

As you know, there is wide bipartisan support among voters for legislation to enact paid sick days. In fact, 86% of voters, including 96% of Democrats, 73% of Republicans and 87% of Independents, believe the federal government should consider new laws to make working families more economically secure, including paid sick days legislation. Paid sick days law is also popular among a diverse range of ethnic, minority, gender and age groups. For instance, 79% of Latinos, 77% of African Americans, 69% of women and 68% of people under 30 consider these new laws, including paid sick days law, to be “very important.”

Your commonsense family support legislation, and your leadership on this issue, is critical to helping all children thrive. Nationwide guaranteed paid sick days will directly contribute to the long-term success of America’s children, will help businesses, and will improve economic fairness in America. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation as soon as possible. Please feel free to list us as supporters of your bill and do not hesitate to consider us a resource on this and other issues that affect children and families.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jim Steyer

Co-Founder and CEO  
Common Sense

/s/ Danny Weiss

Vice President, Federal Policy  
Common Sense Kids Action

[About Common Sense](#): *Common Sense is dedicated to helping kids thrive by providing tools for parents and opportunities for kids. With more than 65 million Common Sense users, more than 300,000 registered teachers in over 100,000 schools, and with advocates in every state, Common Sense has the potential to reach nearly every home and school across the nation. We are building a movement dedicated to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in our rapidly changing world.*