



How Women-Owned Businesses Can Support Paid Sick Days

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Forty percent of private-sector workers have no paid sick leave. We think you can help us change this fact.

Paid sick days are good for business

All business owners would benefit from offering their workers paid sick days. Paid sick days create a healthier, more productive workforce, and decrease turnover. If workers come to work sick, they are less productive and risk infecting other workers.

Women-owned businesses are uniquely situated to support paid sick days

A minimum standard for paid sick days would create a level playing field that would benefit women-run businesses, since many likely already offer worker-friendly policies like paid sick days. Women on a whole overwhelmingly support paid sick days. In a recent public opinion poll on paid sick days, 78 percent of women reported paid sick days were important compared to 61 percent of men. Women are more supportive of paid sick days *legislation* than men – 88 percent vs. 64 percent of men.

What can you do to support paid sick days?

The Healthy Families Act (HFA) is a bill pending in Congress that would allow workers to earn up to seven paid sick days each year. Employers with paid sick days policies that go by other names (such as PTO banks, etc.) that meet the minimums set forth in the HFA can continue their existing policies. Employers with fewer than 15 workers are exempt. The HFA would increase the share of working women with access to paid leave by 48 percent.

“The U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce supports a minimum standard for paid sick days. Healthy businesses need healthy workers, which is precisely what paid sick days accomplish. Paid sick days are an investment in our families, our workforce, and our health that we cannot afford to do without.”

*Margot Dorfman, CEO,
Women’s Chamber of
Commerce*

“Paid sick days [are] a matter of basic fairness.”

*Quenia Abreu, New York
Women’s Chamber of
Commerce*

Email Andrea Lindemann at alindemann@clasp.org to add your business’s name to a letter to Congress supporting the HFA (just include your business name and location in the subject line). There are also over 20 state and local campaigns across the country in which you can get involved. Contact Andrea at the email above or 202-906-8028 for more information.