



A PROJECT OF THE
Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces



Thousands of working Philadelphians don't have any paid sick days to care of their own health, and thousands more can't take a paid day to care for a sick child or parent. Illness for these workers means they must "choose" between the jobs they need and the families they love. The Philadelphia City Council can pass a bill before they leave for the summer that would guarantee workers the ability to earn paid sick days. Please take action to make sick days a reality for all workers!

Business Leaders Make the Case for Paid Sick Days

From our friends at [Family Values @ Work](#).

Leaders in the small business community are increasingly voicing their support for paid sick days. A new brochure captures their voices making the case for this measure as a way to keep down costs, retain employees, and strengthen the economy.

"We don't see a conflict between doing the right thing and earning a profit," said Rob Everts, co-president and CEO of Equal Exchange, a fair trade provider of coffee and other products, based in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. "We value our workers for the skills that they bring and at the same time recognize that they are human beings with human needs."

Dewetta Logan, director and Owner of Smart Beginnings Early Learning Center in Philadelphia, says implementing paid sick days at her center "helped build a partnership of trust between employee and employer." Logan also believes that businesses like hers have a moral obligation to treat their workers humanely. "I believe having time off when you're sick is a right – not something a worker should have to beg for."

The fight against paid sick days is led by lobbyists for trade associations dominated by big national chains. "They disguise themselves as mom and pop shops. But they don't speak for me," said Freddy Castiblanco, owner of Terraza 7 Live Music, a cafe and music venue in Elmhurst, NY.

The brochure, titled, "How Your Business Can Benefit from Paid Sick Days," is made available by Family Values @ Work Consortium and the Main Street Alliance and can be [accessed here](#).

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Tiffany is an office manager and a single mom. Her 13 year old son has severe asthma and allergies. At her current job she receives paid sick days, which she is able to use to care for herself or her son when he has an asthma attack or a respiratory infection. Tiffany is relieved knowing that she can take the time to care for her son without fear of losing her job.

Unfortunately, that was not always the case for Tiffany. Prior to her current job, she worked at a number of different companies. Despite her hard work, she was let go from each of those jobs after missing work to care for her son.

Tiffany feels blessed to have a job where she has the flexibility to work hard and care for her son. She is grateful to work in a climate that supports the work-family balance.

Want to hear Tiffany and others from Pennsylvania tell their stories [in their own words](#)? Please visit the [Working Families Story Bank](#).

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From MomsRising: OJ, humidifiers, and 40 million Americans →

How do you prepare for illness? Is one of the steps to contact your members of Congress in support of the Healthy Families Act. Read the article above to find out why it should be.

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Listen to the stories of workers in Philadelphia and why they need paid sick days.

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Mission

The Coalition for Healthy Families and Workplaces is made up of a group of organizations supporting the need for earned sick time in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. More than over 40% of workers do not have a single paid sick day to use to care for themselves or a loved one when they are sick. Everyone gets sick and everyone deserves the time to get better.

The Coalition currently consists of over 100 groups and organizations including non-profit organizations and labor groups and continues to grow each day! If you are interested in becoming part of the Coalition or would like to learn more please email policy@pathwayspa.org or visit <http://www.earnedicksickdaysphilly.com>.

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