

Everyone Gets Sick. Not Everyone Has Time to Get Better.

- ◆ **Nearly half (48%) of private-sector workers don't have a single paid sick day to care for themselves when they are ill.** In this economic climate, a basic workplace standard of paid sick days would help prevent workers from choosing between their own health or the health of their family—and their paychecks or even their jobs.
- ◆ **Those most in need are the least likely to have paid sick days.** Only one in four low-wage workers have paid sick days, and they are often most likely to have jobs requiring frequent contact with the public.
- ◆ **When people have no choice but to go to work sick, they risk infecting others.** For example, only one in five food service or hotel workers have any paid sick days. Child care, retail and nursing home workers are also less likely to have paid sick days.
- ◆ **Paid sick days are particularly important for working parents.** Children get well faster when a parent cares for them. Yet, 94 million working people don't have paid sick days to care for an ill child—and cannot afford to take time off without pay. As a result, children are forced to go to school sick.
- ◆ **Even our government—the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—asks us to stay home from work when we're sick,** and to keep sick children out of school and child care. Workers without paid sick days don't have that option, and we all risk getting sick.
- ◆ **One in six workers report that they or a family member have been fired, disciplined or threatened with being fired for taking time off due to illness** or to care for a sick relative, according to a 2008 University of Chicago survey.

Working Families Need the Healthy Families Act.

- ◆ The FMLA does not guarantee workers paid sick days—and neither do any state laws.
- ◆ **The Healthy Families Act (HR 2460/S 1152) would enable workers to earn up to seven paid sick days a year to recover from short-term illness, to care for a sick family member, for routine medical care or to seek assistance related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.** Workers would earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 56 hours (seven days) per year, unless the employer selects a higher limit.
- ◆ A broad-based coalition of women's, civil rights, medical, children's, faith-based and labor organizations supports this legislation. And, nearly nine of out ten voters (86%) support paid sick days as a basic labor standard.