



*Monroe County Legislature*

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LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 22

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Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment <b>Memorializing Referral</b> -L

June 11, 2007

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

**Re: Memorializing The New York State Legislature to Enact a Family Temporary Care Leave Insurance Program**

Honorable Legislators:

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act gives many workers the right to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a new child or for an immediate family member who is seriously ill. While this law provides important job protection, it falls short of providing real security for today's working families. Young couples, wanting to start a family, often have numerous financial obligations that must be taken into consideration before deciding whether one parent can afford to stay home to care for a newborn. For low-income families, taking unpaid leave to deal with an emergency may mean a struggle just to put food on the table. Many individuals cannot afford to forgo pay for any length of time, and unpaid leave is simply not an option, no matter how urgent the need to be at home.

To help improve the economic security and stability of working families, lawmakers in the New York State Assembly are proposing to expand the state's Temporary Disability program to enable workers to take paid leave in certain situations. This legislation would create a "family temporary care leave insurance program" which would provide up to 12 weeks of benefits to employees who take time off to care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition.

This legislation is supported by Governor Spitzer and by workers and employers alike. Paid leave helps companies keep good workers and maintain a high level of productivity. The United States is one of very few industrialized countries that does not offer this sort of protection on a national level, but individual states, recognizing the value of paid family leave programs, have

started to take action. California enacted a paid family leave law in 2004, and Washington State passed a similar law just last month.

A family temporary care leave insurance program would provide a much-needed safety net for working families. Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the New York State Legislature to pass a Family Temporary Care Leave Insurance Program.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenn Gamble*  
Glenn Gamble  
Legislator - District 22

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