

Personal Stories Shared with the Family Care Campaign in Support of the Family Care Act

Maria Kast-Carson

I am encouraging legislators to vote yes on SB 580 - The Family Care Act for many reasons. The US is one of 41 countries without paid family leave. This legislation would be an incredible boon to families in ways more than just economic. The first few weeks/months of a new babies life is such a critical time, not just for the baby, but for the family as a whole.

So many people have such a difficult time adjusting to the new addition to their home that this bill would allow families in our state to get off on a solid footing, which hopefully would allow them to become strong committed families that enhance our communities. The fiscal benefits are more obvious, there are very few people in our state who can afford to take time from work without pay.

Lynn Layman

I am interested in The Family Leave Act for these personal reasons. First, my daughter is expecting our first grandchild this coming June! She & her husband are both employee by Penn State University in State College. With all the money Penn State makes they DO NOT offer any paid maternity time at all!

My daughter will need to use accumulated sick days & possibly a disability plan which will only pay 1/2 salary she typically makes.

Yet their daycare centers on campus charge based on couples income somewhere in amount of \$1200 month!!! Young couples everywhere are facing these tough decisions...please help!!

Also, within the last 3 years I left workforce to help care for my mother who has since passed away. Luckily I was in a position I could do this but majority of people cannot afford and I learned the real expense of health care for seniors. I worked as a health care aide...we need more people! Even family members who care for aging parents at home can't do it all. I feel it's going to be a real problem as my husband & I age, we are now 64 & 67. This Family Care Act MUST happen NOW! Thanks for getting it to pass.

Adam Pennington

As a Pennsylvania resident, I feel it is important for fathers to receive the same kind of benefits as the mother of a newborn. My wife and I recently had our first child in October. I had the option to take my FMLA and not receive any compensation or use some of my personal days to assist my wife in her recovery. Not receiving compensation was something we couldn't afford, so I used 6 of my 10 PTO days to help my wife. My wife is fortunate to have her 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, but not having someone around to help has been a true challenge. She is responsible for feeding, changing, playing with, and caring for our daughter and has no time where she can recharge herself mentally and take a step away.

In today's society, where there is a push for equality among several different group, I feel this is an opportunity to include the male community in these discussions. By giving husbands more time at home to help their wives with parenting, Relationships will be healthier and you could see a possible decline in divorce rates among couples. Please truly considering this options as it would mean a great deal not only to the male population, but to all the new mothers who could use a helping hand once in awhile.