



FIRST FOCUS

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro and Senator Gillibrand:

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to thank you for your leadership in reintroducing the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act of 2017 (H.R. 497/S. 337).

As an organization committing to securing the economic security of America's families, we applaud your efforts to create a comprehensive national paid leave program in the United States.

The lack of earned family leave for millions of workers in the U.S. leaves parents with the impossible choice between staying home to care for and bond with their newborn or losing necessary income.

Access to paid family leave has significant positive health implications for children and families by allowing parents to care for their children. For example, men are more involved with their child's direct care when they are able to take off two or more weeks after the birth of their child and mothers are available to breastfeed their newborn.

Paid family leave also promotes families' financial security and independence. The birth of a child often results in large medical bills for families, and the income earned during paid leave can be used to cover these medical expenses and prevent a family from falling behind on other bills such as rent and utilities.

The FAMILY Act would make workers in all companies, regardless of size, eligible for up to 12 weeks of partial income for family and medical leave, including pregnancy, childbirth recovery, serious health condition of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner, birth or adoption of a child and/or military caregiving and leave. Workers could earn 66 percent of their monthly wages, up to a capped amount.

We are grateful for your leadership in making children and families a legislative priority, and we look forward to working with you on this and other proposals to improve the well-being of America's children and youth.

Sincerely,