

# OPINION

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## **A healthy idea**

The Star-Ledger editorial board hit the nail on the head with its April 16 editorial, "The right to catch a cold." To put it succinctly, earned sick leave is a policy where we have essentially nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain.

At a time when our state is strapped for cash and small businesses are sensitive to higher costs, it has been difficult to enact policies that benefit working families. Earned sick leave is one of few policies that can come with a zero-dollar price tag, respect the economic realities of our state, and still provide tangible benefits to workers and the community.

A paid sick leave law is the right thing to do for 1.1 million workers in our state who are still forced to choose between going to work sick and not getting paid. The fact is that we can and we should right this injustice. We will all be a lot healthier for it.

*Charles Hall Jr., chair, Working Families United for New Jersey*