

# A Conservative Approach to Paid Family Leave

*Imagine if all families could welcome a new baby or adopted child by spending the first few months together bonding as a family. What kind of impact could that have on our nation?*

## **The need:**

- 85% of Americans do not have access to paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child ([AEI](#))
- 62% of households with children have both parents working ([US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))
- 25% of all households with children headed by a single parent ([Pew Research Center](#))
- 23% of all mothers go back to work within two weeks of giving birth ([Wash Post, Dept of Labor](#))
- 44% of all Americans cannot cover an unexpected \$400 expense ([The Federal Reserve](#))

## **Helps Federal Budget:**

- Could increase future taxpayers by reversing plummeting birthrate of 1.76 live births per woman (need 2.1 in order to maintain taxpayer population) ([The Economist](#))

## **Pro-Life:**

- Supports women who choose life since most who have abortions say they cannot afford the child ([Guttmacher Institute](#))

## **Importance of Bonding:**

- Studies show that early bonding is crucial for the long-term mental health and resilience of children ([National Institutes of Health](#))
- Fathers also produce the love hormone “oxytocin” when with baby those first few weeks and then are more involved in childrearing later ([NBC News](#))

## **Health of Baby:**

- 10 weeks of paid maternal leave was associated with a 10% lower infant mortality rate ([National Institutes of Health](#))
- With each month of paid leave, infant mortality can drop by up to 13% ([McGill University](#))

## **Health of Mother:**

- Women with at least 12 weeks of paid leave reported fewer depressive symptoms and better mental and physical health ([Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics](#))

## **Keeps Mothers off Public Assistance:**

- 48% with household incomes under \$30,000 go on public assistance after the birth of a baby ([Pew Research Center](#))
- After taking paid leave, mothers are 39% less likely to go on public assistance and 40% less likely to need food stamps ([Rutgers University](#))

## **Benefits Businesses:**

- 90% employers reported a positive impact or no impact from introduction of paid leave policies ([Department of Labor](#))

**Public Support:**

- 74% of registered voters support paid leave. 70% of Men, 78% of women. 71% of Republicans, 83% of Democrats. 70% of Tea Party. ([Fortune-Morning Consult poll](#))

**Fits Conservative Values:**

- No mandates on business, no new taxes, optional

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