



WHAT CONSERVATIVE LEADERS ARE SAYING

In Support of Paid Family Leave

“American families are the heart, soul and backbone of our nation. Strong and loving families build up our neighborhoods, sustain our communities, invigorate our cities, pass down our values and make a brighter future for every citizen...It’s time to pass Paid Family Leave...”

— **President Trump:** *White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave*
(President Trump has mentioned his support for paid family leave in every joint address to Congress since taking office in 2017.)

“What is essential for the health, long-term of America, is parental leave at the birth or adoption of a child.”

— **Rick Santorum**, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania

“Republicans need to roll up their sleeves, reach across the aisle, and get a new federal paid-leave program enacted. Paid parental leave is good policy and good politics.”

— **Rick Santorum**, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania

“Our economic policies have left young, working families behind at a time when our marriage and childbirth rates are falling. It is time to realign our economic policies in support of American families...”

— **Senator Marco Rubio** (R-FL) introducing his *New Parents Act* legislation

The problems stemming from financial insecurity around having kids, such as increased debt, welfare receipt, reduced birth weight and negative cognitive outcomes for children and increased family instability are increasingly concentrated among middle- and working-class moms and dads — the backbone of our country...It makes it harder for young Americans to start families and weakens the family — the bedrock institution of our society.”

— **Senator Marco Rubio** (R-FL): *USA Today*

“It’s a practical, conservative solution for America’s families. It’s a smart, policy that enables families to make their own financial planning decisions.”

— **Representative Ann Wagner** (R-Missouri)

“Since many workers lack paid-leave benefits on the job, and have little savings accrued when having a child, this would help many who face a significant financial stress at a very important and vulnerable time.”

— **Carrie, Lukas, President, Independent Women’s Forum**

“Families are forced to choose between their financial well-being and the well-being of their child,” Crenshaw wrote in a tweet. “That’s wrong. Let’s fix it.”

— **Representative Dan Crenshaw** (R-TX)

“I am leading efforts to create a policy that gives parents the flexibility to pursue a career and raise a family. This policy must be fiscally sustainable and not bury taxpayers in even more red ink. We will find a bipartisan solution that empowers families and business owners to succeed.”

— **Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.**, (R-Louisiana)

“There is no bigger kitchen table issue than a mother and a father being able to care for their newborn. In many cases, the first year of life is the most expensive for a family. This legislation addresses this, focuses resources and eases financial strain to provide a longer bonding period for the family. As a doctor, I know that if a mom and dad are able to have a deeper connection with their child at birth, it’s better for the health of the baby and the mother. We don’t raise taxes, affect Social Security, and there are no mandates on either the family or the employer. This is a common ground solution that can pass Congress and become law.”

— **Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.**, (R-Louisiana)

“Developing solutions to help new parents and working families thrive in this modern workforce is necessary for the continued economic success of our nation and the well-being of the next generation of Americans.”

— **Representative Elise Stefanik** (R, New York)

“It’s past time we modernize our family leave policies to reflect the evolving needs of today’s workforce and to reduce the barriers that pose challenges for parents balancing family and work... Our proposal is a path forward for a budget neutral paid leave option that gives parents greater flexibility without imposing a new government entitlement or mandate.”

— **Senator Joni Ernst** (R-Iowa) on the introduction of *The Cradle Act*

“Families are the bedrock of our society. If young people can’t afford to marry and start a family, then the American dream literally has no future.”

— **Senator Mike Lee** (R-Utah)

“The pro-life community should embrace this as an opportunity to support both the baby and the mother who has chosen life. With almost half of women who have had an abortion living below the poverty line, it is no surprise that most claim they did so because they could not afford a baby. Paid family leave could give them a much-needed lifeline.”

— **Nadine Maenza**, President of Patriot Voices

“Paid Family Leave is incredibly related to the pro-life issue.”

— **Abby Johnson**, Pro-Life Leader from movie *Unplanned*

“As an employer of more than 40 employees, all within child-bearing age, this plan would help me as well as help my employees prepare for the births of their own children.”

— **Kristen Hawkins**, President of Students for Life

Although paid family leave is of course only one small step toward helping reverse the anti-family trends of recent decades, it is a step nonetheless. If conservatives are to rebuild a culture of healthy families in America, it will in all likelihood be through gradual strides such as this.

— **Terry Schilling**, American Principles Project



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