



Vermonters can't afford to wait for paid leave

Sixty organizations call on Vermont lawmakers to pass a strong paid family and medical leave program in 2024.

Dear Vermont Lawmakers,

Vermonters should be able to care for a loved one, welcome a new child, seek safety from domestic violence, or recover from a health crisis without risking their pay. But an estimated [73%](#) of working Vermonters do not have access to paid family and medical leave.

Every day, Vermonters are forced to choose between their paycheck and caring for their loved ones or themselves.

We hear stories of workers choosing between paying the mortgage and caring for their spouse in their final weeks. Of working long days while getting cancer treatment. Of mothers leaving their newborns long before they're ready.

These are desperate situations - and they are preventable. We, the Vermont Paid Leave Coalition, urge Vermont lawmakers to pass a strong paid family and medical leave program in 2024.

In March, the Vermont House advanced a comprehensive paid leave bill to the Senate. With up to 12 weeks of paid leave and virtually universal coverage for Vermont's workforce, it's the package families and businesses need and deserve. Now it's up to the Senate to get this bill across the finish line.

A dozen states and the District of Columbia have paid leave programs. We know from their experience that comprehensive programs increase [workforce participation](#), improve [infant health](#), lift [financial burdens](#) on caregivers, and reduce need for [public assistance programs](#). [Businesses](#) see reduced turnover and higher employee morale, increasing productivity.

The state of Vermont, businesses, and families - as well as their bottom lines - all stand to benefit from paid leave.

Vermont has a roadmap to a cost-effective and equitable way to ensure paid leave is there for workers when they need it. The Vermont Paid Leave Coalition stands united as a broad and diverse coalition in support of passing a paid leave program that meets Vermonters' needs in 2024.

We know it's long overdue, and Vermonters can't afford to wait.

For more information, please contact Charlie Gliserman at cgliserman@aarp.org.



AARP Vermont
ACLU of Vermont
Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Vermont Chapter
American Cancer Society Action Network
American Heart Association
Central Vermont New Directions Coalition
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Child Care Resource
Clarina Howard Nichols Center
Community of Vermont Elders
Dad Guild
Family Action, Inc.
Hanover Co-op Food Stores & Auto Service Centers of VT & NH
HopeWorks
Hunger Free Vermont
Living Well Group, Inc
Main Street Alliance
Mamava
Migrant Justice
Mosaic Vermont, Inc.
NewStory Center
Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Pride Center of Vermont
Public Assets Institute
Recovery Vermont
Richard Kemp Center
Rights & Democracy
Rutland Area NAACP
Seventh Generation
Steps to End Domestic Violence
The League of Women Voters of Vermont
The Root Social Justice Center
Three Penny Taproom
Umbrella of the NEK
Vermont Afterschool
Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR)
Vermont Commission on Women
Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

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Vermont Family Network
Vermont Foodbank
Vermont Interfaith Action
Vermont Kin as Parents, Inc
Vermont Legal Aid, Inc.
Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Vermont Medical Society
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Vermont Parent Child Center Network
Vermont Professionals of Color Network
Vermont Works for Women
Vermont-NEA
Voices Against Violence/Laurie's House
Voices for Vermont's Children
VPIRG
Windham County NAACP
Women Business Owners of Vermont
Women's Freedom Center
WomenSafe
Working Fields

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