

Amendment 798: The U.S. Senate's Paid Sick Days Budget Vote

Talking Points for Congressional Visits and Action Alerts

For senators who voted *in favor* of Amendment 798 but *are not* co-sponsors of the Healthy Families Act (S.497):

- ▶ Thank you for supporting Senator Murray's paid sick days amendment during the recent budget votes. I am thrilled that you have taken this step.
- ▶ Your vote suggests that you understand that 43 million Americans without access to paid sick days is a threat to their health and financial security, the health of our communities, businesses' productivity and stability, and our overall economic well-being.
- ▶ But budget votes are only symbolic. I urge you to take a more meaningful step by supporting the Healthy Families Act (S.497). The Healthy Families Act would establish a much-needed national paid sick days standard. **Show me and all the people of [State] that you meant it when you voted for paid sick days in the budget by co-sponsoring and helping pass the Healthy Families Act.**
- ▶ The Healthy Families Act would allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illnesses, access preventive care, provide care to a sick family member, or attend school meetings related to a child's health, disability or special education needs.
- ▶ We know from longstanding laws and employer policies that paid sick days are good for workers and families, businesses and the economy. The overwhelming majority of voters say they want lawmakers to consider new laws like paid sick days. And now 21 jurisdictions across the country have or will soon have their own laws in place. The evidence is in. The momentum is building. And the public demand is clear.
- ▶ **Follow through on your pledge to support paid sick days by co-sponsoring a concrete solution – the Healthy Families Act – today.**

For senators who voted *in favor* of Amendment 798 and *are* co-sponsors of the Healthy Families Act (S.497):

- ▶ Thank you for supporting the Healthy Families Act and for supporting Senator Murray's paid sick days amendment during the recent budget votes. Champions like you will help make paid sick days the law of the land.
- ▶ As you know, many of your colleagues in the Senate who also supported the amendment have not yet co-sponsored the Healthy Families Act – despite clear evidence that paid sick days have widespread benefits, that there is incredible momentum in the cities and states that are passing laws, and that there is strong public demand.

- ▶ **Take your leadership to the next level. Urge your colleagues in the Senate and House to join you by officially co-sponsoring the Healthy Families Act.**

For senators who voted against Amendment 798 and are not co-sponsors of the Healthy Families Act (S.497):

- ▶ I was disappointed by your vote against paid sick days last week when the Senate voted on budget amendments.
- ▶ Right now, at least 43 million Americans can't earn a single paid sick day when they get the flu, strep throat, or other common and contagious illnesses. As a result, they are forced to choose between staying home and losing a paycheck or even their jobs and going to work sick. This situation compromises their health and productivity and spreads illness to their co-workers, customers, and throughout the community, and also risks working families' financial stability. The situation is senseless. It's bad for families. It's bad for business. And it's bad for our economy.
- ▶ Senator Murray's recent paid sick days budget amendment garnered bipartisan support. I am deeply disappointed that you were not among its supporters. I hope that you will take a hard look at the growing body of evidence that supports this policy, the momentum around it at the state and local levels, and the strong public demand for paid sick days laws, and change your position. The people of [State] are counting on it.
- ▶ The Healthy Families Act (S.497) would establish a national paid sick days standard. It would allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illnesses, access preventive care, provide care to a sick family member, or attend school meetings related to a child's health, disability or special education needs.
- ▶ **People in [State] and across the country want and need paid sick days – for the good of their families, businesses, communities and our state and national economies. Show that you understand the need for this common sense policy by co-sponsoring the Healthy Families Act today.**