



March 15, 2011

The Honorable Fiona Ma  
State Capitol, Room 3173  
Sacramento, CA 94249

VIA FACSIMILE to (916) 319-2112

RE: AB 400 Paid Sick Days Legislation – SUPPORT

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Executive Director  
Katie Buckland

Combined Federal Campaign #6220

Dear Assemblywoman Ma:

Thank you for introducing AB 400 in the California Assembly. The California Women's Law Center ("CWLC") supports this critical legislation which guarantees all California workers the right to earn paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member, or to take leave related to domestic violence or sexual assault. Since its founding in 1989, CWLC has worked to ensure that life opportunities for women and girls are free from unjust social, economic, and political constraints. It is the first law center in California solely dedicated to addressing the comprehensive and unique legal needs of women and girls.

Nearly 6 million California workers have ZERO paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member. Too many hardworking Californians are forced to lose pay and risk job loss in order to care for their own illness or care for a sick family member. This is especially true for women, who not only provide the vast majority of the care needed by children or sick family members, but also bear the brunt of the discrimination at work for doing so.

Paid sick days also protect public health; workers forced to work sick expose their co-workers and the public to infectious diseases. Paid sick days are a practical and cost-effective public health policy to prevent disease, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, care for our children and elders, reduce health disparities, and control health care costs.

AB 400 would also guarantee California workers the right to take leave related to domestic violence or sexual assault. Approximately 40% of California women are victims of domestic violence at least once in their lives. There is one forcible rape every 56 minutes in California. Given these staggering statistics, it is fair to conclude that many of California's working women have been or will be victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. It is essential that they feel able to take time off to recover and heal. They will be more likely to remain an effective part of the workforce if they have the guaranteed right to do so.

We urge all legislators to join you in supporting AB 400.

Sincerely,

Katie Buckland, Executive Director