

UPDATES AND PRESS RELEASE

January 27, 2021

Family Values @ Work Statement on the Biden-Harris American Rescue Plan

(MILWAUKEE, WI)—*Family Values @ Work is a movement network of grassroots coalitions in more than two dozen states working to win paid family and medical leave, earned sick and safe days, and affordable, high-quality childcare at the state and national levels. Today, Ellen Bravo, strategic director to the FV@W network, delivered the following remarks at today's press conference releasing the findings of the new University of Wisconsin report, "[Healthy Workers. Thriving Wisconsin Solutions Addressing Lack of Income As A Barrier To COVID-19 Isolation And Quarantine.](#)"*:

"Last spring, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, or FFCRA. It was a huge help for many workers and small businesses. Unfortunately, it excluded a lot of folks - people who work for a company with 500 or more employees, plus health care workers and emergency responders. That meant up to 106 million workers were left out in the cold.

"The FFCRA included another important policy - 10 additional weeks of emergency paid leave to care for a child whose school or child care was closed because of the pandemic. That was great - but there was no relief for the many people whose COVID didn't disappear after two weeks.

"We've heard from Chineva and Christine what this means for family health and economic security. And we've heard from Dr. Heller a key solution: guaranteeing access to paid sick days for all employees, full and part-time, permanent and gig workers.

"Fortunately, the new administration is introducing the Biden-Harris American Rescue Plan that does exactly that.

"Their bill applies to all employers, as Jonathan said, instead of only those between 50 to 500 employees.

"It provides over 14 weeks of paid sick and family and medical leave to help parents with kids at home AND people who need time to heal from COVID or care for someone who is.

"The benefit is \$1,400 per-week for eligible workers. That's full wage replacement if you earn up to \$73,000 annually - as [more than three-quarters of all workers](#) do.

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“The refundable tax credit will reimburse employers with fewer than 500 staff for 100 percent of the cost of this leave. It will also reimburse state and local governments.

“This is a real opportunity, as important as the vaccine to stopping the virus. This is the moment for major investment in families' health and economic security so that money starts flowing through our communities again and we can recover from the economic devastation of the last ten months.

“In addition to emergency measures, we need permanent policies - babies and cancer and heart attacks didn't take a vacation during this pandemic. Soon Congress will be considering the FAMILY Act, to make it affordable for families to welcome a new child or care for a serious personal or family illness.

“We all want to put families first and be there for those we love - these policies will help us do just that.”

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