

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Sasha Hammad, Young Workers United, (858) 926-8885

Nick Hardeman, Office of Fiona Ma, (415) 557-2312

Rebecca Greenberg, California Labor Federation, (510) 499-7188

Ronald Coleman, California ACORN, (916) 475-7156

Netsy Firestein, California Work and Family Coalition, (510) 847-3403

SAN FRANCISCO SAYS YES TO STATEWIDE PAID SICK DAYS LAW

SF Board of Supervisors Passes Resolution Supporting California Paid Sick Days Law

San Francisco – A day after Californians marked Cesar Chavez Day, workers, worker’s rights groups and San Francisco city leaders gathered outside the City Hall to speak out and demonstrate support for the landmark Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act (AB 1000), which would allow all California workers to earn paid sick days.

In 2006, led by the Young Workers United, San Francisco passed Proposition F and became the first city in the nation to adopt paid sick days policy. Workers shared stories about the advantages of San Francisco’s paid sick days policy. They urged lawmakers to pass AB 1000 and extend paid sick days to the millions of working families across the state who must either forfeit wages, or go to work sick, or send sick children to school or day care.

The event was scheduled just a day after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to support AB 1000. The resolution was introduced last week by Supervisor Chris Daly (District 6). “Paid sick days in San Francisco have greatly benefited the health and well-being of our children, families and communities,” said Daly. “No one should have to risk their job to take care of their own or a family member’s health. I introduced this Resolution in support of the bill because it will benefit millions of low-income workers across California.”

Authored by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco), the paid sick days legislation would make California the first state to require employers to provide all workers with paid sick days. “The paid sick days movement garnered its first success in San Francisco when voters passed Proposition F,” said Assemblywoman Fiona Ma. “I commend the Board of Supervisors for passing this resolution and making San Francisco the first city to support AB 1000. Nobody wins when workers show up to work sick and this bill is a major step towards protecting public health across all of California.”

“Until San Francisco passed paid sick days, I did not get paid if I took a time off due to illness,” said Young Workers United member Beth Byrne, a temp worker at an insurance company. “A few months ago I lost my voice and I called in sick for five days. Five full days of lost wages is a lot of money, especially in a city with such high living expenses,

so I was very anxious about how I would pay my bills. Because of San Francisco's paid sick days law, I accrued enough time to pay for four of my sick days.”

More than two in five California workers have no paid sick days. Going to work sick creates unhealthy workplaces and puts the health of our families and communities at risk. According to a 2008 Field Research Corporation poll, 73 percent of California voters support a law guaranteeing workers a minimum number of paid sick days. The Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act allows workers to earn paid sick days for personal illness, to care for a sick family member, or to recover from domestic violence or sexual assault. In recent years, a movement for paid sick days has grown at the local, state and federal level across the country. For more information, visit www.paidicksdaysCA.org.

*California Labor Federation • Office of Assemblywoman Fiona Ma • California ACORN
• Labor Project for Working Families • Young Workers United • 9to5, National
Association of Working Women- Los Angeles and Bay Area Chapters • California Nurses
Association • Legal Aid Society- Employment Law Center • California Commission on
the Status of Women • Parent Voices- California Child Care Resource & Referral
Network • Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving*

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