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LOS ANGELES SAYS YES TO PAID SICK DAYS FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS
L.A. City Council Passes Resolution Supporting Statewide Paid Sick Days Law

Los Angeles – Today the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution to support the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act (AB 1000), which would allow all California workers to earn paid sick days. The resolution, introduced by City Councilmember Richard Alarcón (7th District) was passed by a unanimous vote of 14-0.

“No one should have to choose between their job and their family, but every day, working mothers and fathers without paid sick days are forced to make this impossible choice when they or their children become ill,” Alarcón said. “I’m pleased that the City Council joins me in supporting Assemblywoman Fiona Ma’s California Paid Sick Days bill, which will remove a heavy burden from many of our City’s low-income workers, and help improve the health and well-being of our communities.”

Los Angeles is the second city in California to pass a resolution supporting AB 1000. Earlier this year, Supervisor Chris Daly introduced a resolution supporting AB 1000 that was unanimously approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Authored by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco), AB 1000 will allow 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. “I would like to thank Councilmember Alarcón for his leadership on ensuring that all Californians have the right to earn paid sick days,” said Assemblywoman Ma. “AB 1000 has been put on hold this year as the legislature addresses the budget shortfall, but the support of the LA City Council will provide a boost as the campaign gets ready to make a big push to pass the bill next year.”

"Not having paid sick days is a public health hazard and a hardship for my family," said ACORN member and LA resident Velia Nevarez, who works the night shift at a major fast food chain. "My husband and I barely pay the bills between our two salaries. At least a few days a year, I am forced to work sick because I can't afford to lose the income."

The California Work and Family Coalition, including advocacy organizations, health professionals and public health officials, is promoting passage of AB 1000. The bill is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation and the California Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

Nearly six million Californians – more than two in five workers in the state – do not get any 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. In recent years, a movement for paid sick days has grown at the local, state and federal level across the country. If passed, the paid sick days legislation would make California the first state in the nation to allow workers to earn paid sick days. For more information, visit www.paid sick days CA.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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