

Californians Support Paid Sick Days Law

Nearly 6 million Californians – over 40% of workers in the state – have ZERO paid sick days. However, a majority of Californians surveyed in a recent statewide poll expressed strong support for legislation guaranteeing paid sick days to workers.

Following are the key findings of the statewide survey conducted in 2007 by Ruth Milkman at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment:

Support for legislation that would guarantee paid sick days to workers in the state is extensive among all segments of California's population. The survey demonstrates the need for paid sick days not only for workers to attend to their own illnesses, but also to care for sick children.

- A large majority – 88 percent – of California adults surveyed indicated that they “agreed” or “agreed strongly” that there should be a law guaranteeing paid sick days for all California workers.
- Support for such a law was particularly high among Democrats; low-income households; young adults ages 18-34; women; as well as Blacks and Latinos.
- 27% of respondents with children under 18 said they have gone to work even though their children were sick.
- 49% of single mothers said they have gone to work when their children were sick.
- 37% of respondents whose employers do not currently provide any paid sick days said they have gone to work when their children were sick.
- Respondents whose employers do not currently allow them to leave work to care for sick family members were more than twice as likely to report going to work while their children were sick as those whose employers do allow this. (51% vs. 21%)

*For more information on the survey and media inquiries, please contact **Ruth Milkman** at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at (310) 871-3055 or milkman@soc.ucla.edu.*