



New Jersey Time to Care Coalition

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The Time to Care Coalition Applauds Passaic City Council on Passing Earned Sick Days

Passaic New Jersey. Tonight, in a vote of 7 to 0, Passaic became the third city in New Jersey and the tenth nationwide to pass an earned sick leave law. In passing the Paid Sick Leave ordinance, Passaic City Council has ensured that the estimated 11,000 private-sector Passaic private sector workers who have no access to earned sick days will now be able to take time when they or a family member are sick.

The ordinance will allow all private sector workers to earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked; workers in establishments with 10 or more employees, or child care, home health care, and food service workers will be able to earn a minimum of 5 paid sick days per year; workers in establishment with fewer than 10 employees will earn a minimum of 3 paid sick days per year.

The Earned Sick Day Ordinance will go into effect 120 days from enactment. After that date, employees will begin to accrue earned sick days on their first day of employment and are entitled to use the accrued time on the 90th calendar day of employment.

Passaic City Council's action adds to the growing support for a statewide earned sick days standard for New Jersey.

"It's a great day for workers and their families in Passaic," said Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, Executive Director of NJ Citizen Action and spokesperson for the New Jersey Time to Care Coalition. "We thank the City Council for their commitment to working families and for making sure that all Passaic workers are guaranteed a basic standard of earned sick days."

"Earned sick days is an important economic issue for women" said Karen White, Director of the Working Families Program at Rutgers Center for Women and Work, "Women are more likely than men to miss work in order to care for the family members, and low-wage women are among those with least access to paid sick days. Creating a minimum standard of earned sick days will lead to increased economic and job security for these workers."

"Passing this bill today helps more than just those workers without paid sick days, it helps us all by stimulating our economy," said Ed Lyons, Executive Director of the United Passaic Organization. "It is a fact that, when working families have enough money in their pockets to cover the basics, it helps the whole economy"

The [New Jersey Time to Care Coalition](http://www.njtimetocare.org) will continue to raise awareness of the need for an earned sick days policy in all communities and with our state lawmakers. We thank the Passaic City Council for their leadership to ensure working families will be guaranteed a basic standard of earned sick days.

New Jersey Time to Care Coalition is a broad-based group of community, advocacy, union, religious, research, and academic organizations working to support policies that strengthen communities by ensuring that working families can balance their responsibilities at home and on the job.

"Providing families with time to care means strong families, strong workplaces, and strong communities."