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The Time to Care Coalition Applauds Newark City Council for Advancing Earned Sick Days Ordinance

Momentum Continues to Grow Towards Final Passage

Newark – The Newark City Council on December 4th voted unanimously to advance the earned sick days legislation to second reading which would guarantee the right of workers to earn paid sick days in Newark. The New Jersey Time to Care Coalition applauded the bill sponsor Councilman Ramos for his leadership and the entire City Council for supporting the measure. The measure, if made law, will be the strongest in the nation. The ordinance requires a second and final vote at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

“When Newark workers get sick, if they are lucky, they stay home so that they can recover fast. But for 38,000 Newark workers it's not so easy. For them a bad flu or a sick child can mean losing badly needed pay or even their job. With this ordinance, they are one step closer to getting the protections they so desperately need without the fear of job loss,” **said Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, Executive Director of New Jersey Citizen Action and spokesperson for the New Jersey Time to Care Coalition.**

The Newark bill would allow private-sector workers to earn 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked. Those that work in businesses with 10 or more employees can earn 5 paid sick days per year and workers in businesses with nine or fewer employees would be eligible to earn 3 paid sick days per year. In addition, employees directly in contact with the public, such as food service and daycare workers would be eligible to earn 5 sick days regardless of company size. The days can be used to care for themselves or for sick children, siblings, grandparents or grandchildren.

“Councilman Ramos and the Newark Municipal Council should be commended for advancing a bold proposal that will bolster Newark’s economy, protect its public health, and ensure nearly 40,000 Newark residents will no longer have to choose between their health and their livelihoods,” **continued Salowe-Kaye.**

The [New Jersey Time to Care Coalition](#) will continue to raise awareness of the need for an earned sick days policy in all New Jersey communities and with our state lawmakers.

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.

