

RESOLUTION: SUPPORT FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City DFL support legislation in the 2017-2018 Legislature that would provide up to 12 weeks of partial wage replacement leave for the birth or adoption of a new child, parenting, or care of a seriously ill family member.

BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS: The Paid Family and Medical Leave Act will make it easier for parents – both mothers and fathers – to care for a newborn or newly adopted child; and

WHEREAS: The Paid Family and Medical Leave Act will provide crucial support when a family member becomes seriously ill; and

WHEREAS: The wage replacement in the proposed Paid Family and Medical Leave legislation would range from 80 percent to 55 percent based on family income; and

WHEREAS: Only about 13 percent of workers currently have access to paid parental leave; and

WHEREAS: Research from other states suggest that businesses with paid family leave have saved money, benefited from lower worker turnover, increased productivity and have higher worker morale; and

WHEREAS: Paid family and medical leave programs have been proven successful in other states – California, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: A 2016 poll found that 94 percent of Democrats, 80 percent of Independents, and 65 percent of Republicans agreed that paid time off to care for ill family members is good for our nation.