

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Connecticut Looks to Implement Paid Family and Medical Leave

State Representative Matthew Lesser (D-Middletown) is applauding news that Connecticut will likely become the fourth state to implement paid family and medical leave. This measure was adopted as part of the legislature's budget adjustments.

"This is a big step on the road to paid family leave and a huge win for Connecticut's working families. Once again we've shown that if Congress will not lead on leave, the states will," said State Representative Matthew Lesser who noted President Obama's call for paid family and medical leave in this year's State of the Union Address. "I'm grateful for the direct support of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez for us on the ground, and also for the many advocates and families who fought so hard for this at the state level. This measure makes our families stronger and reflects our strong commitment to family values."

The legislation requires that the state Labor Commissioner submit and establish the procedures to implement a Paid Family and Medical Leave program and report to the General Assembly by February 1st, 2016. Three other US states and at least 182 countries have systems of paid parental leave. The United States and Papua New Guinea were the only two countries, in a recent survey, to have no national system of paid leave.

"This is a wonderful day for families in Connecticut," said **Rep. Kelly Luxenberg** (D-Manchester). "Paid family leave will allow people to make their families their top priority in their times of highest need – whether it's sickness or birth of a child. I look forward to making this a reality for Connecticut families in the near future."

"This is a huge victory for families all across Connecticut, including the many families in northeast Connecticut who have asked me for this legislation," said **state Senator Mae Flexer** (D-Killingly), who was an early proponent of Paid Family Medical Leave legislation. "And as we did on gay marriage and universal access to affordable healthcare, once again Connecticut is leading the way in America on providing paid time off for families to care for a newborn or a sick family member. It is shameful and an embarrassment that the United States and New Guinea are the only two countries in the world that do not provide paid family medical leave for women on maternity leave."