

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## Paid Family and Medical Leave Passes Appropriations Committee

Democratic lawmakers are applauding the Appropriations Committee's passage of House Bill 6932, "An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave," with a vote of 29-27. The bill would establish a Family Medical Leave Compensation plan for employees utilizing the Family Medical Leave Act. If approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Malloy, Connecticut would be the fourth state in the country to enact paid family and medical leave legislation.

"Just about every country in the world, other than the United States and Papua New Guinea, have mandated paid parental leave," **Rep. Peter Tercyak** (D-New Britain) said. Tercyak is the House chairman of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, which introduced the bill. "Other than the initial cost to set up the program and get it running, there is virtually little cost to state agencies. We should pass this legislation as soon as possible."

"The United States is the only advanced country in the world to not guarantee paid maternity leave or paid sick leave for its workers. Connecticut has the opportunity to lead the nation once again by passing HB 6932. This bill makes our families stronger at little cost to the employer. It is simply the right thing to do for new mothers who cannot afford to take time off to be with their newborns or for those caring for an ailing parent, or sick child. I am pleased this bill has passed through the Appropriations Committee and I look forward to voting in favor of it in the House Chamber," said **State Representative Matthew Lesser** (D-Middletown).

"Family Medical Leave provides a way for employees to both care for their families when needed and keep their job," said **Senator Gomes** (D-Bridgeport). "I applaud my fellow delegation for pushing this bill forward and protecting the families that need it most."

"For far too long the United States has lagged behind the rest of the world when it comes to family leave. Connecticut is leading the way in changing that with this bill. People from across our state have come forward to say what a difference a system of paid family leave would make in their lives," said **Senator Mae Flexer**. "I'm thrilled to see this proposal moving forward this year."

**Rep. Kelly Luxenberg** (D-Manchester) said, "I'm very proud that the Appropriations Committee took action on this important piece of legislation. With such a strong showing of support from more than 50 co-sponsors in the House and Senate, there is a demonstrated desire to not have people to have to choose between work and their families during their times of need."