

## Talking Points

# Healthy Families Act

## National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

NCJW, guided by the Jewish value of *Kavod Ha Bri'ot* — respect and dignity for all human beings — endorses and resolves to work for laws, policies, and employment practices that ensure workers do not have to choose between earning a living and caring for themselves. The Healthy Families Act, introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), would establish a national paid sick and safe days standard, allowing workers at companies with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven paid sick days each year to be used to recover from illness; take care of family members; seek assistance after incidents of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault; and more. **Congress must pass this vital legislation to keep families financially secure, workplaces and communities healthy, and the economy strong.**

- **A national paid sick and safe days standard would help meet the health and financial needs of working families.** Nearly thirty million workers across the United States lack access to paid sick leave. Missing even one paycheck can affect a person's ability to afford groceries, rent, and other daily necessities. A basic workplace paid sick and safe days standard would ensure that all workers receive this necessary benefit no matter where they work, without having to sacrificing their financial stability.
- **Paid sick leave is good for women.** Women make up nearly half the workforce and mothers are breadwinners in nearly half of families with children under 18. Workers in low wage jobs are disproportionately women and women of color and are among the least likely to have paid sick days and the most likely to be unable to afford to take an unpaid day away from work. When women are able to take paid sick leave for themselves or a child, it not only reduces the spread of disease, it allows them to keep their job and ensure their families' economic security.
- **Paid sick leave strengthens the economy.** During the height of the pandemic, Congress enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which guaranteed emergency paid sick leave for workers impacted by COVID-19. This policy reduced the spread of illness between workers and saved businesses close to \$207.6 billion annually in productivity. And, in states and localities where paid sick days policies have been enacted, evidence shows they are working well, with a positive impact on business and the economy.