



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA STATEMENT

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D.C. Becomes Second City in U.S. to Guarantee Paid Sick Days

Statement of Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby,
Augusta, Maine

“Members of the Maine Work and Family Coalition applaud passage of the nation's second paid sick days legislation. On Tuesday, Washington D.C. became the second city to pass a paid sick days law, ensuring that thousands of working families in our nation's capital will be afforded the protection of paid time away from work to treat an illness or care for a sick child.

“It surely will not be the last.

“The new law will provide seven paid sick and safe days for workers in firms with 100 employees or more, five days for firms with 25-99 employees, and three days for firms with 24 or fewer employees.

“At a time when the Maine Legislature is considering a paid sick days bill to protect workers and the public's health from workers who are forced to work sick, we're pleased to see progress on this issue. Maine must now take action to pass L.D. 1454, “An Act to Care for Working Families,” which would guarantee up to five paid sick days per year.

“The public has already made the connection: 87% of Maine voters believe that Maine should require paid sick days. Washington, D.C.'s City Council has made the connection. Now it's time for the Legislature to take action. Paid sick days are a workplace standard whose time has come.”

The Maine Women's Lobby is a non-partisan, non-profit membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action.

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