



TALKING POINTS: SICK LEAVE

- The United States is the only developed country in the world that doesn't guarantee the right to paid sick leave if someone falls ill or has to care for a sick family member.
- To date, [only 16 cities and three states](#) have passed paid sick leave laws.
- Currently, nearly 40 million people in the country don't have access to paid sick leave.
- Research shows that [low-wage, Hispanic, and part-time workers](#) are particularly vulnerable when it comes to paid sick leave.
- Less than a third of workers that earn \$19,000 or less per year have access to paid sick leave, compared to more than 80 percent of workers that make \$65,000 or more per year.
- Hispanic workers are also much less likely than other racial groups to be able to take a paid day off if they become ill, as less than half get paid sick leave.
- People who work part-time are also unlikely to have access to paid sick leave. While 70 percent of workers that work 35 hours or more a week get that benefit, only about a 25 percent of those who work 20 to 34 hours have access to paid sick leave.
- Too many workers that don't have access to paid sick leave are going to work sick, including workers in the retail food industry.
- No worker should be forced to go to work sick because they simply can't afford not to. Allowing workers to stay home when they are sick is good for public health and the economy. Access to paid sick leave is also good for businesses since workers can stay home when they're sick without losing pay or infecting customers or fellow employees.