

# 115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1516

To allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2017

Ms. Delauro (for herself, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Esty, Mr. Moulton, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. Delaney, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Takano, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. COHEN, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Kilmer, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Titus, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Perlmutter, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Gabbard, Ms. Sewell of Alabama, Mr. Bera, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Walz, Mrs. Davis of California, Ms. Brownley of California, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Gutiérrez, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Levin, Ms. Moore, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Garamendi, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Langevin, Ms. Michelle Lujan Gris-HAM of New Mexico, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Slaughter, Mr. Cárdenas, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Ms. Speier, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Norton, Ms. Delbene, Miss Rice of New York, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Ellison, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mrs. Watson Cole-MAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MENG, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Polis, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Engel, Mr. Foster, Mr. Thompson of California, Mrs. Bustos, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LEE, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Ruiz, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. Shea-Porter) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker,

in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Families Act".
- 5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 6 Congress makes the following findings:
- 7 (1) Working people need time to meet their own
- 8 health care needs and to care for family members.
- 9 The absence of paid sick time has forced working
- people to make untenable choices between needed in-
- 11 come and jobs on the one hand and caring for their
- own and their family's health on the other. It is in
- the national interest to ensure that all working peo-
- ple can care for their own health and the health of
- their families while prospering at work.
- 16 (2) Thirty-six percent of the private sector
- workforce and 10 percent of the public sector work-
- force, lacks paid sick time. Millions more theoreti-

- cally have access to sick time, but have not been on the job long enough to use it. Millions more lack sick time they can use to care for a sick child or ill family member.
  - (3) Working people without paid sick days are more likely to go to work sick and delay or forgo needed health care. A 2016 study in the journal Health Affairs found that working adults without paid sick days are 3 times more likely to forgo medical care for themselves, and 1.6 times more likely to forgo medical care for their family, compared to working adults with paid sick days. Lack of paid sick days is also a barrier to receiving cancer screenings and preventive care, according to a 2012 study published by BioMed Central Public Health.
  - (4) Nearly one in four parents without paid sick time reports sending a sick child to school or child care because the parent has to go to work. When children go to school and child care sick, they risk their own health and that of other children, teachers and administrators. Research suggests that schools play a key role in transmitting contagious illnesses like influenza.
  - (5) A 2012 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that a lack of work-

- place policies like paid sick days contributed to an additional 5,000,000 cases of influenza-like illness during the H1N1 pandemic of 2009.
  - (6) An analysis examining influenza rates following the implementation of comprehensive paid sick time laws in seven major cities in the United States found that when workers gained access to paid sick time in those cities, the general influenza rate in the population decreased by 5.5 to 6.5 percent. This analysis by the National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that those laws helped prevent about 100 influenza-like infections per week for every 100,000 people.
    - (7) Paid sick days contribute to more cost-effective use of health care resources. A 2011 study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that a universal paid sick days policy would reduce preventable visits to the emergency room and result in cost savings of \$1,100,000,000 per year, including \$500,000,000 in savings for public health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid.
    - (8) The American Productivity Audit completed in 2003 found that lost productivity due to illness costs \$226,000,000,000 annually, and that 71 percent of that cost stems from presenteeism—the

1	practice of employees coming to work while ill. Stud-
2	ies in the Journal of Occupational and Environ-
3	mental Medicine and the Journal of the American
4	Medical Association show that presenteeism is a
5	larger productivity drain than either absenteeism or
6	short-term disability.
7	(9) Working while sick also increases a worker's
8	probability of suffering an injury on the job. A 2012
9	study published by the American Journal of Public
10	Health found that workers with access to paid sick
11	leave were 28 percent less likely than workers with-
12	out paid sick leave to suffer nonfatal occupational
13	injuries.
14	(10) Workers' access to paid sick time varies
15	dramatically by wage level, as demonstrated by the
16	following:
17	(A) For private sector workers—
18	(i) for workers in the lowest quartile
19	of earners, 61 percent lack paid sick time;
20	(ii) for workers in the next 2 quar-
21	tiles, 35 and 25 percent, respectively, lack
22	paid sick time; and
23	(iii) even for workers in the highest
24	quartile, 16 percent lack paid sick time.
25	(B) For public sector workers—

- 1 (i) for workers in the lowest quartile
  2 of earners, 23 percent lack paid sick time;
  3 (ii) for workers in the next 2 quar4 tiles, 6 and 7 percent, respectively, lack
  5 paid sick time; and
  6 (iii) for workers in the highest quar-
  - (11) Workers' access to paid sick days also varies depending on their occupation and race. For example, more than 80 percent of workers in food preparation and serving occupations lack access to paid sick days, compared to only 23 percent of workers in management occupations. More than half of Latino workers and nearly half of Native American or Alaskan Native workers do not have access to paid sick days, compared to nearly 40 percent of white and black workers.

tile, 2 percent lack paid sick time.

(12) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 in 3 women and more than 1 in 4 men in America report having experienced rape, physical abuse, or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Women and men of color are even more likely to report being impacted by intimate partner violence. Too many people, and especially women, are forced to

- risk losing their jobs or critical income when they need to take time away from work to address domestic violence related issues, such as obtaining a restraining order or finding housing, in order to avoid or prevent physical or sexual abuse.
  - (13) Without paid sick time that can be used to address the effects of domestic violence, these victims are in grave danger of losing their jobs. One survey found that 96 percent of employed domestic violence victims experienced problems at work related to the violence. The Government Accountability Office similarly found that 24 to 52 percent of victims report losing a job due, at least in part, to domestic violence. The loss of employment can be particularly devastating for victims of domestic violence, who often need economic security to ensure safety.
  - (14) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that intimate partner violence costs over \$700,000,000 annually due to the victims' lost productivity in employment.
  - (15) Efforts to assist abused employees result in positive outcomes for employers as well as employees because employers can retain workers who might otherwise be compelled to leave.

- 1 (16) Dozens of States, cities, and localities have 2 or will soon have paid sick time laws in place and 3 evidence shows that those laws are working well for 4 workers, businesses, and the economy.
  - (17) A 2009 study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found that, of 22 countries with comparable economies, the United States was 1 of only 3 countries that did not provide any paid time off for workers with short-term illnesses.

#### 10 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

# The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to ensure that working people can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families by requiring employers to permit employees to earn up to 56 hours of paid sick time including paid time for family care;
- (2) to diminish public and private health care costs by enabling workers to seek early and routine health care for themselves and their family members;
- (3) to assist employees who are, or whose family members are, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, by providing the employees with paid time away from work to allow the victims to receive treatment and to take the necessary steps to ensure their protection;

1	(4) to address the historical and persistent
2	widespread pattern of employment discrimination on
3	the basis of gender by both private and public sector
4	employers;
5	(5) to accomplish the purposes described in
6	paragraphs (1) through (4) in a manner that is fea-
7	sible for employers; and
8	(6) consistent with the provision of the 14th
9	Amendment to the Constitution relating to equal
10	protection of the laws, and pursuant to Congress'
11	power to enforce that provision under section 5 of
12	that Amendment—
13	(A) to accomplish the purposes described
14	in paragraphs (1) through (4) in a manner that
15	minimizes the potential for employment dis-
16	crimination on the basis of sex by ensuring gen-
17	erally that paid sick time is available for eligible
18	medical reasons on a gender-neutral basis; and
19	(B) to promote the goal of equal employ-
20	ment opportunity for women and men.
21	SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.
22	In this Act:
23	(1) CHILD.—The term "child" means a biologi-

cal, foster, or adopted child, a stepchild, a child of

- a domestic partner, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is—
  - (A) under 18 years of age; or

4

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

(B) 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

## (2) Domestic Partner.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—The term "domestic partner", with respect to an individual, means another individual with whom the individual is in a committed relationship.
- (B) COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP DE-FINED.—The term "committed relationship" means a relationship between two individuals, each at least 18 years of age, in which each individual is the other individual's sole domestic partner and both individuals share responsibility for a significant measure of each other's common welfare. The term includes any such relationship between two individuals, including individuals of the same sex, that is granted legal recognition by a State or political subdivision of a State as a marriage or analogous relationship, including a civil union or domestic partnership.

(3) Domestic violence.—The term "domestic violence" has the meaning given the term in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)), except that the ref-erence in such section to the term "jurisdiction receiving grant monies" shall be deemed to mean the jurisdiction in which the victim lives or the jurisdic-tion in which the employer involved is located. Such term also includes dating violence, as that term is defined in such section.

- (4) Employee.—The term "employee" means an individual who is—
  - (A)(i) an employee, as defined in section 3(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(e)), who is not covered under subparagraph (E), including such an employee of the Library of Congress, except that a reference in such section to an employer shall be considered to be a reference to an employer described in clauses (i)(I) and (ii) of paragraph (5)(A); or
    - (ii) an employee of the Government Accountability Office;

1	(B) a State employee described in section
2	304(a) of the Government Employee Rights Act
3	of 1991 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16c(a));
4	(C) a covered employee, as defined in sec-
5	tion 101 of the Congressional Accountability
6	Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301), other than an ap-
7	plicant for employment;
8	(D) a covered employee, as defined in sec-
9	tion 411(c) of title 3, United States Code; or
10	(E) a Federal officer or employee covered
11	under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5,
12	United States Code.
13	(5) Employer.—
14	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "employer"
15	means a person who is—
16	(i)(I) a covered employer, as defined
17	in subparagraph (B), who is not covered
18	under subclause (V);
19	(II) an entity employing a State em-
20	ployee described in section 304(a) of the
21	Government Employee Rights Act of 1991;
22	(III) an employing office, as defined
23	in section 101 of the Congressional Ac-
24	countability Act of 1995;

1	(IV) an employing office, as defined in
2	section 411(c) of title 3, United States
3	Code; or
4	(V) an employing agency covered
5	under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title
6	5, United States Code; and
7	(ii) is engaged in commerce (including
8	government), or an industry or activity af-
9	fecting commerce (including government),
10	as defined in subparagraph (B)(iii).
11	(B) Covered employer.—
12	(i) In General.—In subparagraph
13	(A)(i)(I), the term "covered employer"—
14	(I) means any person engaged in
15	commerce or in any industry or activ-
16	ity affecting commerce who employs
17	15 or more employees for each work-
18	ing day during each of 20 or more
19	calendar workweeks in the current or
20	preceding year;
21	(II) means a smaller employer, as
22	defined in subparagraph (C), to which
23	the special rule in paragraph (3) of
24	section 5(a) applies;
25	(III) includes—

1	(aa) any person who acts,
2	directly or indirectly, in the inter-
3	est of an employer to any of the
4	employees of such employer; and
5	(bb) any successor in inter-
6	est of an employer;
7	(IV) includes any "public agen-
8	cy", as defined in section 3(x) of the
9	Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
10	(29 U.S.C. 203(x)); and
11	(V) includes the Government Ac-
12	countability Office and the Library of
13	Congress.
14	(ii) Public agency.—For purposes
15	of clause (i)(IV), a public agency shall be
16	considered to be a person engaged in com-
17	merce or in an industry or activity affect-
18	ing commerce.
19	(iii) Definitions.—For purposes of
20	this subparagraph:
21	(I) COMMERCE.—The terms
22	"commerce" and "industry or activity
23	affecting commerce" mean any activ-
24	ity, business, or industry in commerce
25	or in which a labor dispute would

1	hinder or obstruct commerce or the
2	free flow of commerce, and include
3	"commerce" and any "industry affect-
4	ing commerce", as defined in para-
5	graphs (1) and (3) of section 501 of
6	the Labor Management Relations Act,
7	1947 (29 U.S.C. 142 (1) and (3)).
8	(II) Employee.—The term "em-
9	ployee" has the same meaning given
10	such term in section 3(e) of the Fair
11	Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
12	U.S.C. 203(e)).
13	(III) Person.—The term "per-
14	son" has the same meaning given
15	such term in section 3(a) of the Fair
16	Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
17	U.S.C. 203(a)).
18	(C) SMALLER EMPLOYER.—The term
19	"smaller employer" means any person engaged
20	in commerce or in any industry or activity af-
21	fecting commerce who employs fewer than 15
22	employees for each working day during each of
23	20 or more calendar workweeks in the pre-
24	ceding year.

1	(D) Predecessors.—Any reference in
2	this paragraph to an employer shall include a
3	reference to any predecessor of such employer.
4	(6) Employment benefits.—The term "em-
5	ployment benefits" means all benefits provided or
6	made available to employees by an employer, includ-
7	ing group life insurance, health insurance, disability
8	insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational bene-
9	fits, and pensions, regardless of whether such bene-
10	fits are provided by a practice or written policy of
11	an employer or through an "employee benefit plan",
12	as defined in section 3(3) of the Employee Retire-
13	ment Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C.
14	1002(3)).
15	(7) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term
16	"health care provider" means a provider who—
17	(A)(i) is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy
18	who is authorized to practice medicine or sur-
19	gery (as appropriate) by the State in which the
20	doctor practices; or
21	(ii) is any other person determined by the
22	Secretary to be capable of providing health care
23	services; and

- 1 (B) is not employed by an employer for 2 whom the provider issues certification under 3 this Act.
  - (8) Paid sick time.—The term "paid sick time" means an increment of compensated leave that can be earned by an employee for use during an absence from employment for any of the reasons described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 5(b).
    - (9) PARENT.—The term "parent" means a biological, foster, or adoptive parent of an employee, a stepparent of an employee, parent-in-law, parent of a domestic partner, or a legal guardian or other person who stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child.
    - (10) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.
    - (11) SEXUAL ASSAULT.—The term "sexual assault" has the meaning given the term in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)).
    - (12) SPOUSE.—The term "spouse", with respect to an employee, has the meaning given such term by the marriage laws of the State in which the marriage was celebrated.

- 1 (13) STALKING.—The term "stalking" has the 2 meaning given the term in section 40002(a) of the
- Wiolence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.
- 4 13925(a)).

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- 5 (14) STATE.—The term "State" has the mean-6 ing given the term in section 3 of the Fair Labor 7 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).
  - (15) Unpaid sick time" means the leave earned and used in the same manner and under the same conditions as paid sick time for the purposes of this Act, except that no compensation shall be paid.
    - (16) Victim services organization.—The term "victim services organization" means a non-profit, nongovernmental organization that provides assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking or advocates for such victims, including a rape crisis center, an organization carrying out a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking prevention or treatment program, an organization operating a shelter or providing counseling services, or a legal services organization or other organization providing assistance through the legal process.
- 24 SEC. 5. EARNED PAID SICK TIME.
- 25 (a) Earning of Paid Sick Time.—

(1) In General.—An employer shall provide each employee employed by the employer not less than 1 hour of earned paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, to be used as described in subsection (b). An employer shall not be required to permit an employee to earn, under this section, more than 56 hours of paid sick time in a year, unless the employer chooses to set a higher limit.

# (2) Exempt employees.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), for purposes of this section, an employee who is exempt from overtime requirements under section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(1)) shall be assumed to work 40 hours in each workweek.
- (B) Shorter Normal workweek.—If the normal workweek of such an employee is less than 40 hours, the employee shall earn paid sick time based upon that normal workweek.
- (3) Special rule for smaller employer may provide paid sick time as provided under paragraph (1) but if such smaller employer opts not to do so, the smaller em-

ployer shall provide not fewer than 56 hours of unpaid sick time to each employee per year to be used for the same purposes and under the same conditions as set out in this Act. The provision and earning of unpaid sick time shall be treated in all respects the same as the provision and earning of paid sick time under this Act. References in this Act to paid sick time shall, with respect to smaller employers, be deemed to be references to unpaid sick time.

(4) Dates for Beginning to Earn Paid sick time under this section at the commencement of their employment. An employee shall be entitled to use the earned paid sick time beginning on the 60th calendar day following commencement of the employee's employment. After that 60th calendar day, the employee may use the paid sick time as the time is earned. An employer may, at the discretion of the employer, loan paid sick time to an employee for use by such employee in advance of the employee earning such sick time as provided in this subsection and may permit use before the 60th day of employment.

#### (5) Carryover.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), paid sick time earned under

- this section shall carry over from one year to the next.
  - (B) Construction.—This Act shall not be construed to require an employer to permit an employee to earn more than 56 hours of earned paid sick time at a given time.
    - (6) Employers with a paid leave policy who makes available an amount of paid leave that is sufficient to meet the requirements of this section and that may be used for the same purposes and under the same conditions as the purposes and conditions outlined in subsection (b) shall not be required to permit an employee to earn additional paid sick time under this section.
    - (7) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring financial or other reimbursement to an employee from an employer upon the employee's termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment for earned paid sick time that has not been used.
    - (8) REINSTATEMENT.—If an employee is separated from employment with an employer and is rehired, within 12 months after that separation, by the same employer, the employer shall reinstate the em-

- ployee's previously earned paid sick time. The employee shall be entitled to use the earned paid sick time and earn additional paid sick time at the recommencement of employment with the employer.
- (9) PROHIBITION.—An employer may not require, as a condition of providing paid sick time under this Act, that the employee involved search for or find a replacement employee to cover the hours during which the employee is using paid sick time.
- 10 (b) Uses.—Paid sick time earned under this section11 may be used by an employee for any of the following:
- 12 (1) An absence resulting from a physical or 13 mental illness, injury, or medical condition of the 14 employee.
  - (2) An absence resulting from obtaining professional medical diagnosis or care, or preventive medical care, for the employee.
  - (3) An absence for the purpose of caring for a child, a parent, a spouse, a domestic partner, or any other individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship, who—
- (A) has any of the conditions or needs for diagnosis or care described in paragraph (1) or (2);

16

17

18

19

20

21

1	(B) in the case of someone who is a child,
2	is required to attend a school meeting or a
3	meeting at a place where the child is receiving
4	care necessitated by the child's health condition
5	or disability; or
6	(C) is otherwise in need of care.
7	(4) An absence resulting from domestic vio-
8	lence, sexual assault, or stalking, if the time is to—
9	(A) seek medical attention for the em-
10	ployee or the employee's child, parent, spouse,
11	domestic partner, or an individual related to the
12	employee as described in paragraph (3), to re-
13	cover from physical or psychological injury or
14	disability caused by domestic violence, sexual
15	assault, or stalking;
16	(B) obtain or assist a related person de-
17	scribed in paragraph (3) in obtaining services
18	from a victim services organization;
19	(C) obtain or assist a related person de-
20	scribed in paragraph (3) in obtaining psycho-
21	logical or other counseling;
22	(D) seek relocation; or
23	(E) take legal action, including preparing
24	for or participating in any civil or criminal legal

1	proceeding related to or resulting from domestic
2	violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
3	(c) Scheduling.—An employee shall make a reason-
4	able effort to schedule a period of paid sick time under
5	this Act in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the
6	operations of the employer.
7	(d) Procedures.—
8	(1) In general.—Paid sick time shall be pro-
9	vided upon the oral or written request of an em-
10	ployee. Such request shall—
11	(A) include the expected duration of the
12	period of such time;
13	(B) in a case in which the need for such
14	period of time is foreseeable at least 7 days in
15	advance of such period, be provided at least 7
16	days in advance of such period; and
17	(C) otherwise, be provided as soon as prac-
18	ticable after the employee is aware of the need
19	for such period.
20	(2) Certification in General.—
21	(A) Provision.—
22	(i) In general.—Subject to subpara-
23	graph (C), an employer may require that a
24	request for paid sick time under this sec-
25	tion for a purpose described in paragraph

1	(1), $(2)$ , or $(3)$ of subsection $(b)$ be sup-
2	ported by a certification issued by the
3	health care provider of the eligible em-
4	ployee or of an individual described in sub-
5	section (b)(3), as appropriate, if the period
6	of such time covers more than 3 consecu-
7	tive workdays.
8	(ii) Timeliness.—The employee shall
9	provide a copy of such certification to the
10	employer in a timely manner, not later
11	than 30 days after the first day of the pe-
12	riod of time. The employer shall not delay
13	the commencement of the period of time on
14	the basis that the employer has not yet re-
15	ceived the certification.
16	(B) Sufficient certification.—
17	(i) In general.—A certification pro-
18	vided under subparagraph (A) shall be suf-
19	ficient if it states—
20	(I) the date on which the period
21	of time will be needed;
22	(II) the probable duration of the
23	period of time;
24	(III) the appropriate medical
25	facts within the knowledge of the

1	health care provider regarding the
2	condition involved, subject to clause
3	(ii); and
4	(IV)(aa) for purposes of paid sick
5	time under subsection (b)(1), a state-
6	ment that absence from work is medi-
7	cally necessary;
8	(bb) for purposes of such time
9	under subsection (b)(2), the dates on
10	which testing for a medical diagnosis
11	or care is expected to be given and the
12	duration of such testing or care; and
13	(ce) for purposes of such time
14	under subsection (b)(3), in the case of
15	time to care for someone who is not a
16	child, a statement that care is needed
17	for an individual described in such
18	subsection, and an estimate of the
19	amount of time that such care is
20	needed for such individual.
21	(ii) Limitation.—In issuing a certifi-
22	cation under subparagraph (A), a health
23	care provider shall make reasonable efforts
24	to limit the medical facts described in
25	clause (i)(III) that are disclosed in the cer-

1	tification to the minimum necessary to es-
2	tablish a need for the employee to utilize
3	paid sick time.
4	(C) REGULATIONS.—Regulations pre-
5	scribed under section 14 shall specify the man-
6	ner in which an employee who does not have
7	health insurance shall provide a certification for
8	purposes of this paragraph.
9	(D) Confidentiality and nondisclo-
10	SURE.—
11	(i) Protected Health Informa-
12	TION.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
13	strued to require a health care provider to
14	disclose information in violation of section
15	1177 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
16	1320d-6) or the regulations promulgated
17	pursuant to section 264(c) of the Health
18	Insurance Portability and Accountability
19	Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note).
20	(ii) HEALTH INFORMATION
21	RECORDS.—If an employer possesses
22	health information about an employee or
23	an employee's child, parent, spouse, domes-
24	tic partner, or an individual related to the

1	employee as described in subsection $(b)(3)$ ,
2	such information shall—
3	(I) be maintained on a separate
4	form and in a separate file from other
5	personnel information;
6	(II) be treated as a confidential
7	medical record; and
8	(III) not be disclosed except to
9	the affected employee or with the per-
10	mission of the affected employee.
11	(3) CERTIFICATION IN THE CASE OF DOMESTIC
12	VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING.—
13	(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer may re-
14	quire that a request for paid sick time under
15	this section for a purpose described in sub-
16	section (b)(4) be supported by any one of the
17	following forms of documentation, but the em-
18	ployer may not specify the particular form of
19	documentation to be provided:
20	(i) A police report indicating that the
21	employee, or a member of the employee's
22	family described in subsection (b)(4), was
23	a victim of domestic violence, sexual as-
24	sault, or stalking.

1	(ii) A court order protecting or sepa-
2	rating the employee or a member of the
3	employee's family described in subsection
4	(b)(4) from the perpetrator of an act of
5	domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalk-
6	ing, or other evidence from the court or
7	prosecuting attorney that the employee or
8	a member of the employee's family de-
9	scribed in subsection (b)(4) has appeared
10	in court or is scheduled to appear in court
11	in a proceeding related to domestic vio-
12	lence, sexual assault, or stalking.
13	(iii) Other documentation signed by
14	an employee or volunteer working for a vic-
15	tim services organization, an attorney, a

- (iii) Other documentation signed by an employee or volunteer working for a victim services organization, an attorney, a police officer, a medical professional, a social worker, an antiviolence counselor, or a member of the clergy, affirming that the employee or a member of the employee's family described in subsection (b)(4) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- (B) Requirements.—The requirements of paragraph (2) shall apply to certifications under this paragraph, except that—

1	(i) subclauses (III) and (IV) of sub-
2	paragraph (B)(i) and subparagraph (B)(ii)
3	of such paragraph shall not apply;
4	(ii) the certification shall state the
5	reason that the leave is required with the
6	facts to be disclosed limited to the min-
7	imum necessary to establish a need for the
8	employee to be absent from work, and the
9	employee shall not be required to explain
10	the details of the domestic violence, sexual
11	assault, or stalking involved; and
12	(iii) with respect to confidentiality
13	under subparagraph (D) of such para-
14	graph, any information provided to the em-
15	ployer under this paragraph shall be con-
16	fidential, except to the extent that any dis-
17	closure of such information is—
18	(I) requested or consented to in
19	writing by the employee; or
20	(II) otherwise required by appli-
21	cable Federal or State law.
22	SEC. 6. NOTICE REQUIREMENT.
23	(a) In General.—Each employer shall notify each
24	employee and include in any employee handbook the infor-
25	mation described in paragraphs (1) through (4). Each em-

1	ployer shall post and keep posted a notice, to be prepared
2	or approved in accordance with procedures specified in
3	regulations prescribed under section 14, setting forth ex-
4	cerpts from, or summaries of, the pertinent provisions of
5	this Act including—
6	(1) information describing paid sick time avail-
7	able to employees under this Act;
8	(2) information pertaining to the filing of an
9	action under this Act;
10	(3) the details of the notice requirement for a
11	foreseeable period of time under section 5(d)(1)(B);
12	and
13	(4) information that describes—
14	(A) the protections that an employee has
15	in exercising rights under this Act; and
16	(B) how the employee can contact the Sec-
17	retary (or other appropriate authority as de-
18	scribed in section 8) if any of the rights are vio-
19	lated.
20	(b) LOCATION.—The notice described under sub-
21	section (a) shall be posted—
22	(1) in conspicuous places on the premises of the
23	employer, where notices to employees (including ap-
24	plicants) are customarily posted; or
25	(2) in employee handbooks.

1	(c) VIOLATION; PENALTY.—Any employer who will-
2	fully violates the posting requirements of this section shall
3	be subject to a civil fine in an amount not to exceed \$100
4	for each separate offense.
5	SEC. 7. PROHIBITED ACTS.
6	(a) Interference With Rights.—
7	(1) Exercise of rights.—It shall be unlawful
8	for any employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny
9	the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any right
10	provided under this Act, including—
11	(A) discharging or discriminating against
12	(including retaliating against) any individual,
13	including a job applicant, for exercising, or at-
14	tempting to exercise, any right provided under
15	this Act;
16	(B) using the taking of paid sick time or
17	unpaid sick time under this Act as a negative
18	factor in an employment action, such as hiring,
19	promotion, reducing hours or number of shifts,
20	or a disciplinary action; or
21	(C) counting the paid sick time or unpaid
22	sick time under a no-fault attendance policy or
23	any other absence control policy.
24	(2) DISCRIMINATION.—It shall be unlawful for
25	any employer to discharge or in any other manner

- 33 1 discriminate against (including retaliating against) 2 any individual, including a job applicant, for oppos-3 ing any practice made unlawful by this Act. 4 (b) Interference With Proceedings or Inquir-IES.—It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against (including retali-6 7 ating against) any individual, including a job applicant, 8 because such individual— (1) has filed an action, or has instituted or 9 10 caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or re-11 lated to this Act;
- 12 (2) has given, or is about to give, any informa-13 tion in connection with any inquiry or proceeding re-14 lating to any right provided under this Act; or
- 15 (3) has testified, or is about to testify, in any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under this Act.
- 18 (c) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be
- 19 construed to state or imply that the scope of the activities
- 20 prohibited by section 105 of the Family and Medical Leave
- 21 Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2615) is less than the scope of
- 22 the activities prohibited by this section.
- 23 SEC. 8. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.
- 24 (a) IN GENERAL.—
- 25 (1) Definition.—In this subsection—

1	(A) the term "employee" means an em-
2	ployee described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of
3	section $4(4)$ ; and
4	(B) the term "employer" means an em-
5	ployer described in subclause (I) or (II) of sec-
6	tion $4(5)(A)(i)$ .
7	(2) Investigative authority.—
8	(A) In general.—To ensure compliance
9	with the provisions of this Act, or any regula-
10	tion or order issued under this Act, the Sec-
11	retary shall have, subject to subparagraph (C),
12	the investigative authority provided under sec-
13	tion 11(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of
14	1938 (29 U.S.C. 211(a)), with respect to em-
15	ployers, employees, and other individuals af-
16	fected.
17	(B) Obligation to keep and preserve
18	RECORDS.—An employer shall make, keep, and
19	preserve records pertaining to compliance with
20	this Act in accordance with section 11(c) of the
21	Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.
22	211(c)) and in accordance with regulations pre-
23	scribed by the Secretary.
24	(C) REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS GENERALLY
25	LIMITED TO AN ANNUAL BASIS.—The Secretary

shall not require, under the authority of this paragraph, an employer to submit to the Sec-retary any books or records more than once during any 12-month period, unless the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe there may exist a violation of this Act or any regula-tion or order issued pursuant to this Act, or is investigating a charge pursuant to paragraph (4).

- (D) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—For the purposes of any investigation provided for in this paragraph, the Secretary shall have the subpoena authority provided for under section 9 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 209).
- (3) CIVIL ACTION BY EMPLOYEES OR INDIVID-UALS.—
  - (A) RIGHT OF ACTION.—An action to recover the damages or equitable relief prescribed in subparagraph (B) may be maintained against any employer in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction by one or more employees or individuals or their representative for and on behalf of—
    - (i) the employees or individuals; or

1	(ii) the employees or individuals and
2	others similarly situated.
3	(B) Liability.—Any employer who vio-
4	lates section 7 (including a violation relating to
5	rights provided under section 5) shall be liable
6	to any employee or individual affected—
7	(i) for damages equal to—
8	(I) the amount of—
9	(aa) any wages, salary, em-
10	ployment benefits, or other com-
11	pensation denied or lost by rea-
12	son of the violation; or
13	(bb) in a case in which
14	wages, salary, employment bene-
15	fits, or other compensation have
16	not been denied or lost, any ac-
17	tual monetary losses sustained as
18	a direct result of the violation up
19	to a sum equal to 56 hours of
20	wages or salary for the employee
21	or individual;
22	(II) the interest on the amount
23	described in subclause (I) calculated
24	at the prevailing rate; and

1	(III) an additional amount as liq-
2	uidated damages; and
3	(ii) for such equitable relief as may be
4	appropriate, including employment, rein-
5	statement, and promotion.
6	(C) FEES AND COSTS.—The court in an
7	action under this paragraph shall, in addition to
8	any judgment awarded to the plaintiff, allow a
9	reasonable attorney's fee, reasonable expert wit-
10	ness fees, and other costs of the action to be
11	paid by the defendant.
12	(4) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—
13	(A) Administrative action.—The Sec-
14	retary shall receive, investigate, and attempt to
15	resolve complaints of violations of section 7 (in-
16	cluding a violation relating to rights provided
17	under section 5) in the same manner that the
18	Secretary receives, investigates, and attempts to
19	resolve complaints of violations of sections 6
20	and 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
21	(29 U.S.C. 206 and 207).
22	(B) CIVIL ACTION.—The Secretary may
23	bring an action in any court of competent juris-
24	diction to recover the damages described in
25	paragraph (3)(B)(i).

ered by the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be held in a special deposit account and shall be paid, on order of the Secretary, directly to each employee or individual affected. Any such sums not paid to an employee or individual affected because of inability to do so within a period of 3 years shall be deposited into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

# (5) Limitation.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an action may be brought under paragraph (3), (4), or (6) not later than 2 years after the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which the action is brought.
- (B) WILLFUL VIOLATION.—In the case of an action brought for a willful violation of section 7 (including a willful violation relating to rights provided under section 5), such action may be brought within 3 years of the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which such action is brought.

1	(C) COMMENCEMENT.—In determining
2	when an action is commenced under paragraph
3	(3), (4), or (6) for the purposes of this para-
4	graph, it shall be considered to be commenced
5	on the date when the complaint is filed.
6	(6) ACTION FOR INJUNCTION BY SECRETARY.—
7	The district courts of the United States shall have
8	jurisdiction, for cause shown, in an action brought
9	by the Secretary—
10	(A) to restrain violations of section 7 (in-
11	cluding a violation relating to rights provided
12	under section 5), including the restraint of any
13	withholding of payment of wages, salary, em-
14	ployment benefits, or other compensation, plus
15	interest, found by the court to be due to em-
16	ployees or individuals eligible under this Act; or
17	(B) to award such other equitable relief as
18	may be appropriate, including employment, re-
19	instatement, and promotion.
20	(7) Solicitor of Labor.—The Solicitor of
21	Labor may appear for and represent the Secretary
22	on any litigation brought under paragraph (4) or
23	(6).
24	(8) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
25	AND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding any

- 1 other provision of this subsection, in the case of the
- 2 Government Accountability Office and the Library of
- 3 Congress, the authority of the Secretary of Labor
- 4 under this subsection shall be exercised respectively
- 5 by the Comptroller General of the United States and
- 6 the Librarian of Congress.
- 7 (b) Employees Covered by Congressional Ac-
- 8 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The powers, remedies, and
- 9 procedures provided in the Congressional Accountability
- 10 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) to the Board (as de-
- 11 fined in section 101 of that Act (2 U.S.C. 1301)), or any
- 12 person, alleging a violation of section 202(a)(1) of that
- 13 Act (2 U.S.C. 1312(a)(1)) shall be the powers, remedies,
- 14 and procedures this Act provides to that Board, or any
- 15 person, alleging an unlawful employment practice in viola-
- 16 tion of this Act against an employee described in section
- 17 4(4)(C).
- 18 (c) Employees Covered by Chapter 5 of Title
- 19 3, United States Code.—The powers, remedies, and
- 20 procedures provided in chapter 5 of title 3, United States
- 21 Code, to the President, the Merit Systems Protection
- 22 Board, or any person, alleging a violation of section
- 23 412(a)(1) of that title, shall be the powers, remedies, and
- 24 procedures this Act provides to the President, that Board,
- 25 or any person, respectively, alleging an unlawful employ-

- 1 ment practice in violation of this Act against an employee
- 2 described in section 4(4)(D).
- 3 (d) Employees Covered by Chapter 63 of Title
- 4 5, United States Code.—The powers, remedies, and
- 5 procedures provided in title 5, United States Code, to an
- 6 employing agency, provided in chapter 12 of that title to
- 7 the Merit Systems Protection Board, or provided in that
- 8 title to any person, alleging a violation of chapter 63 of
- 9 that title, shall be the powers, remedies, and procedures
- 10 this Act provides to that agency, that Board, or any per-
- 11 son, respectively, alleging an unlawful employment prac-
- 12 tice in violation of this Act against an employee described
- 13 in section 4(4)(E).
- (e) Remedies for State Employees.—
- 15 (1) Waiver of Sovereign immunity.—A
- 16 State's receipt or use of Federal financial assistance
- for any program or activity of a State shall con-
- stitute a waiver of sovereign immunity, under the
- 19 11th Amendment to the Constitution or otherwise,
- to a suit brought by an employee of that program
- or activity under this Act for equitable, legal, or
- other relief authorized under this Act.
- 23 (2) Official capacity.—An official of a State
- 24 may be sued in the official capacity of the official by
- any employee who has complied with the procedures

- 1 under subsection (a)(3), for injunctive relief that is
- 2 authorized under this Act. In such a suit the court
- may award to the prevailing party those costs au-
- 4 thorized by section 722 of the Revised Statutes (42
- 5 U.S.C. 1988).
- 6 (3) APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a par-
- 7 ticular program or activity, paragraph (1) applies to
- 8 conduct occurring on or after the day, after the date
- 9 of enactment of this Act, on which a State first re-
- 10 ceives or uses Federal financial assistance for that
- 11 program or activity.
- 12 (4) Definition of Program or activity.—In
- this subsection, the term "program or activity" has
- the meaning given the term in section 606 of the
- 15 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d–4a).
- 16 SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDU-
- 17 CATION AND OUTREACH.
- There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
- 19 retary of Labor such sums as may be necessary in order
- 20 that the Secretary may conduct a public awareness cam-
- 21 paign to educate and inform the public of the require-
- 22 ments for paid sick time required by this Act.

# SEC. 10. COLLECTION OF DATA ON PAID SICK TIME AND

- 2 FURTHER STUDY.
- 3 (a) COMPILATION OF INFORMATION.—The Commis-
- 4 sioner of Labor Statistics shall annually compile informa-
- 5 tion on the following:
- 6 (1) The amount of paid and unpaid sick time
- 7 available to employees by occupation and type of em-
- 8 ployment establishment.
- 9 (2) An estimate of the average sick time used
- by employees according to occupation and the type
- of employment establishment.
- 12 (b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 5 years after the
- 13 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
- 14 of the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate the
- 15 implementation of this Act. Such study shall include an
- 16 estimation of employees' access to paid sick time, employ-
- 17 ees' awareness of their rights under this Act, and employ-
- 18 ers' experiences complying with this Act. Such study shall
- 19 take into account access, awareness and experiences of
- 20 employees by race, ethnicity, gender, and occupation.
- 21 (c) Report.—Upon completion of the study required
- 22 by subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United
- 23 States shall prepare and submit a report to the appro-
- 24 priate committees of Congress concerning the results of
- 25 the study and the information compiled pursuant to sub-
- 26 section (a).

### SEC. 11. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

- 2 (a) Federal and State Antidiscrimination
- 3 Laws.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify
- 4 or affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimina-
- 5 tion on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin,
- 6 sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity,
- 7 marital status, familial status, or any other protected sta-
- 8 tus.
- 9 (b) STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act
- 10 shall be construed to supersede (including preempting)
- 11 any provision of any State or local law that provides great-
- 12 er paid sick time or leave rights (including greater
- 13 amounts of paid sick time or leave, or greater coverage
- 14 of those eligible for paid sick time or leave) than the rights
- 15 established under this Act.

#### 16 SEC. 12. EFFECT ON EXISTING EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

- 17 (a) More Protective.—Nothing in this Act shall
- 18 be construed to diminish the obligation of an employer to
- 19 comply with any contract, collective bargaining agreement,
- 20 or any employment benefit program or plan that provides
- 21 greater paid sick leave or other leave rights to employees
- 22 or individuals than the rights established under this Act.
- 23 (b) Less Protective.—The rights established for
- 24 employees under this Act shall not be diminished by any
- 25 contract, collective bargaining agreement, or any employ-
- 26 ment benefit program or plan.

# SEC. 13. ENCOURAGEMENT OF MORE GENEROUS LEAVE

- 2 POLICIES.
- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to discourage
- 4 employers from adopting or retaining leave policies more
- 5 generous than policies that comply with the requirements
- 6 of this Act.

#### 7 SEC. 14. REGULATIONS.

- 8 (a) In General.—
- 9 (1) AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in para-10 graph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of
- enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe
- such regulations as are necessary to carry out this
- 13 Act with respect to employees described in subpara-
- graph (A) or (B) of section 4(4) and other individ-
- uals affected by employers described in subclause (I)
- or (II) of section 4(5)(A)(i).
- 17 (2) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE; LI-
- 18 Brary of congress.—The Comptroller General of
- the United States and the Librarian of Congress
- shall prescribe the regulations with respect to em-
- 21 ployees of the Government Accountability Office and
- 22 the Library of Congress, respectively, and other indi-
- viduals affected by the Comptroller General of the
- United States and the Librarian of Congress, re-
- 25 spectively.

- 1 (b) Employees Covered by Congressional Ac-2 countability Act of 1995.—
- 3 (1) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary prescribes regulations under sub-5 section (a), the Board of Directors of the Office of 6 Compliance shall prescribe (in accordance with sec-7 tion 304 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 8 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384)) such regulations as are nec-9 essary to carry out this Act with respect to employ-10 ees described in section 4(4)(C) and other individ-11 uals affected by employers described in section 12 4(5)(A)(i)(III).
  - (2) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Secretary to carry out this Act except insofar as the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1), that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections involved under this section.
- 23 (c) Employees Covered by Chapter 5 of Title

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- 1 (1) Authority.—Not later than 90 days after
  2 the Secretary prescribes regulations under sub3 section (a), the President (or the designee of the
  4 President) shall prescribe such regulations as are
  5 necessary to carry out this Act with respect to em6 ployees described in section 4(4)(D) and other indi7 viduals affected by employers described in section
  8 4(5)(A)(i)(IV).
- 9 (2) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations 10 prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be the same as 11 substantive regulations promulgated by the Sec-12 retary to carry out this Act except insofar as the 13 President (or designee) may determine, for good 14 cause shown and stated together with the regula-15 tions prescribed under paragraph (1), that a modi-16 fication of such regulations would be more effective 17 for the implementation of the rights and protections 18 involved under this section.
- (d) Employees Covered by Chapter 63 of Title5, United States Code.—
- 21 (1) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 90 days after 22 the Secretary prescribes regulations under sub-23 section (a), the Director of the Office of Personnel 24 Management shall prescribe such regulations as are 25 necessary to carry out this Act with respect to em-

- ployees described in section 4(4)(E) and other individuals affected by employers described in section
- 4(5)(A)(i)(V).
- (2) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations 5 prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be the same as 6 substantive regulations promulgated by the Sec-7 retary to carry out this Act except insofar as the Di-8 rector may determine, for good cause shown and 9 stated together with the regulations prescribed 10 under paragraph (1), that a modification of such 11 regulations would be more effective for the imple-12 mentation of the rights and protections involved 13 under this section.

### 14 SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES.

- 15 (a) Effective Date.—This Act shall take effect 6
- 16 months after the date of issuance of regulations under sec-
- 17 tion 14(a)(1).
- 18 (b) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—In the
- 19 case of a collective bargaining agreement in effect on the
- 20 effective date prescribed by subsection (a), this Act shall
- 21 take effect on the earlier of—
- 22 (1) the date of the termination of such agree-
- 23 ment; or

1 (2) the date that occurs 18 months after the 2 date of issuance of regulations under section 3 14(a)(1).

 $\bigcirc$