**Back-to-School Toolkit**

Sample Fact Sheet

**Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools:**

**A Paid Sick Days Standard for [City/State Name]’s Families**

**[Insert Month] 2019**

We all want what’s best for our kids. Both parents and educators know firsthand the importance of keeping children healthy and minimizing the spread of illness. Access to paid sick days for working parents can make a real difference in achieving these goals. **But [# or % of workers without paid sick days in city/state] of working people in [city/state name] cannot earn a single paid sick day to recover from their own illness, let alone to care for a sick child.**

**Kids, schools and communities are healthier when parents have access to paid sick days:**

* When parents earn paid sick days, their children are more likely to receive preventive care[[1]](#endnote-1), including well-child visits, vaccinations and dental care.[[2]](#endnote-2)
* As any parent or teacher knows, kids in school or day care frequently get sick. When they do, a parent’s care helps them recover more quickly.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* That’s why, nationwide, parents without access to paid sick time are *more than twice as likely* as those with access to send a sick child to school or day care.[[4]](#endnote-4)
* When sick children go to school, they often get sicker and spread illness to other children, teachers and school staff. Kids have trouble learning, and teachers have difficulty teaching.[[5]](#endnote-5)
* Nationally, nearly 130 children died of flu-related illnesses during the 2018-2019 flu-season.[[6]](#endnote-6)

**Paid sick days help parents meet their children’s medical needs – leading to fewer absences and better long-term academic success.**

* Healthy children are better able to focus, miss fewer days of school, and experience fewer behavioral problems.[[7]](#endnote-7)
* When parents have paid sick days, they can take their children to get routine medical care, such as checkups and immunizations, which helps children stay healthy.
* Paid sick days also help parents address their children’s chronic conditions, keeping manageable problems from becoming serious and leading to hospitalizations and more school absences.[[8]](#endnote-8)

**A paid sick days standard would improve outcomes for [City/State Name]’s children and ease burdens on our schools.**

[Insert latest on state or local paid sick days legislation and/or campaign or use this language about the Healthy Families Act: The proposal currently pending in Congress, the Healthy Families Act (S. 840/H.R. 1784), would guarantee working people the right to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days a year to recover from short-term illnesses like the flu, access preventive care, care for a sick family member, attend school meetings related to a child’s health or disability or seek assistance related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. It is badly needed.]

**To get involved in the effort to secure a paid sick days standard in [City/State Name/the United States], contact [insert campaign contact information].**

1. Afsaw, A. & Colopy, M., (2017, March). Association between Parental Access to Paid Sick Leave and Children’s Access to and Use of Healthcare Services (Table II). *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* *60*(3) 276-284 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. . Shepherd-Banigan, M., Bell, J. F., Basu, A., Booth-LaForce, C. B., & Harris, J. R. (2016, February 28). Mothers’ Employment Attributes and Use of Preventive Child Health Services. *Medical Care Research and Review, 74*(2), 208– 226. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Schuster, M. A., & Chung, P. J. (2014, August 1). Time Off to Care for a Sick Child—Why Family-Leave Policies Matter. *New England Journal of Medicine*, *371*(6), 493-495. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Smith, T. W., & Kim, J. (2010, June). *Paid Sick Days: Attitudes and Experiences* (Table 23). National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago for the Public Welfare Foundation Publication. Retrieved 29 August 2019, from http://www.issuelab.org/resources/10518/10518.pdf (Unpublished calculation) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Towne, S., Gunn-Wright., R., Miller, K., & Gault, B. (2011, October). *Denver Paid Sick Days Would Promote Children’s School Success*. Institute for Women’s Policy Research Publication. Retrieved 29 August 2019, from https://iwpr.org/publications/denver-paid-sick-days-would-promote-childrens-school-success/  [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, August). *Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report: 2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 33 ending August 17, 2019.* Retrieved 29 August 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Haas, S. A., & Fosse, N. E. (2008, June). Health and the Educational Attainment of Adolescents: Evidence from the NLSY97. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior 49*(2): 178-192. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. See note 3. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)