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The FAMILY Act is an Affordable Investment for American Workers

Washington, DC – Following the CBO’s release of its score of the FAMILY Act, the only bipartisan, comprehensive paid leave bill in Congress, the campaign Paid Leave for All released the following statement:

“Comprehensive paid family and medical leave would help millions of American workers and is a priority we can easily afford as a nation. Just 19 percent of people in the U.S. have access to paid leave through an employer. The FAMILY Act addresses this crisis, ensuring 150 million workers would have the security of paid leave when they need it most — to care for themselves or a loved one — and its total cost is entirely reasonable for a program of this size that will benefit so many people.

“The fact is American families, businesses and the economy are already absorbing the costs of unpaid leave. Lost wages due to family and medical leaves cost families an estimated $22.5 billion each year, and that’s just a fraction of the total impact unpaid caregiving has on our economy. Paid leave makes business sense too: employees are four times as likely to leave their employers when paid leave isn’t provided, costing employers 16-200 percent of employees’ annual wages in turnover expenses.

“The value of paid leave for workers is not only the financial protection and benefits, but the peace of mind knowing they could take the time they need in a health emergency or when welcoming a new member of the family. The FAMILY Act is an investment in the future of our country. The United States is one of the only countries in the world that doesn’t guarantee paid leave, it is past time for action. Everyone deserves to be able to take time to be there for their family without risking their job or paycheck — and the FAMILY Act makes this possible.”

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Paid Leave for All is a growing collaborative of organizations working together to win federal paid family and medical leave for all working people.