

PRESS RELEASE



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Campaign Launches “Know Your Rights” Video to Educate Workers about Emergency Coronavirus Paid Leave Benefits

Polling Shows Only 41% Know About the Federal Paid Leave Benefits Passed in March

WASHINGTON – With states reopening and more than 2 million coronavirus cases confirmed in the U.S., the Paid Leave for All campaign released a new video today to arm workers with information about the emergency paid leave benefits they may be eligible for under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Families First Act) that became law in March. The video can be viewed in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). More resources can be found on the [Paid Leave for All website](#).

“For states to safely re-open, consumers must have confidence that workers are not sick on the job, and that employees can take time off to care for themselves and for their families,” said **Dawn Huckelbridge, Director of the Paid Leave for All campaign**. “Workers deserve paid leave protections and it’s a serious problem that so many are unaware of these rights, which will save lives and paychecks in the middle of a public health and economic crisis. We urge the Department of Labor to do more to educate workers about paid leave protections. In the meantime, Paid Leave for All and our partners are launching this video and sharing resources to ensure workers know their rights to take time off to safely quarantine, to recover, or to take care of their families.”

New polling from Paid Leave for All Action shows that only 41% of voters have either heard a great deal or some about the paid leave provisions included in the Families First Act.

The rights for eligible workers include up to 80 hours of paid time off for many COVID-19 reasons including caregiving and stay-at-home orders and up to 12 weeks of time off for childcare reasons, with 10 weeks paid.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, over 33 million workers didn’t have a single guaranteed paid sick day. The Families First Act was historic in providing the first national emergency paid leave benefits. However, the Center for American Progress found that this milestone legislation did not go far enough—leaving millions of frontline and other workers without access to the benefits. The [analysis](#) shows that:

- An estimated 68 million to 106 million private sector workers were excluded from paid leave protections under the Families First Act;
- At best, 47% of private sector workers are eligible for emergency paid leave; however the law’s loopholes and the Trump administration’s regulations could drive that number down to as few as 17%;

- Nearly 9 million U.S. health care workers and emergency responders could be excluded from guaranteed emergency paid leave; and
- Eighty-five percent of workers in the animal slaughter and processing industry are employed at a company with more than 500 employees, and are not guaranteed paid sick and emergency child care leave protections under the law.

In May, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act which would close the loopholes left by the Labor Department and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, that cut out millions of workers from access to emergency paid sick days and paid leave during the pandemic. The bill has yet to be taken up by the Senate.

The Paid Leave for All campaign is a growing collaborative of organizations fighting for paid family and medical leave for all working people.

For more information on the Paid Leave for All campaign, visit <https://paidleaveforall.org/>

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