NEW: Study Finds New York Paid Leave Policy Improves Outcomes for Small Business Owners

New Report Highlights the Positive Impact of Paid Leave Policies on Both Employees and Employers

Washington, DC — A new report released by the National Bureau of Economic Research studying the impact of paid family leave policies in New York State found that enacting paid leave policies have positive effects for small businesses. The report found that employers reported greater ease in handling long employee absences in the first year of the program while seeing no negative impacts on employee attendance, commitment, cooperation, productivity, or teamwork. The report also found that concerns of program misuse are misplaced and it importantly dispels concerns that paid leave will have negative effects on female labor force participation.

Some of the key insights:

- In the first year of New York’s program, larger employers reported greater ease in handling long employee absences.

- There were no negative impacts on employee attendance, commitment, cooperation, productivity or teamwork, and there was no significant change in employee absences without advance notice.

- There were no notable changes in the share of employees who quit and no drop in share of women or increase in part-time workers.

- More than half of New York firms in each year are supportive of the policy.
"This report highlights how paid leave programs can help support small business owners, while also allowing their employees to take time to care for themselves or their family without risking their job or their paycheck,” said Paid Leave for All Director Dawn Huckelbridge. “A permanent, national paid leave policy will be essential to an equitable economic recovery, and critical to building back better.”

Read more in the full report here.

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