



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CORY MASON

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
REPRESENTING THE RACINE COMMUNITY

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Contact: Rep. Cory Mason (608) 266-0634

Rep. Mason Introduces Bill to Ensure Wisconsin Workers Can Earn Paid Sick Days

'This is a reasonable standard that will provide economic security for Wisconsin's working families'

MADISON – Today, State Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine) introduced the “Earned Sick Days Act” to set a workplace standard for paid sick days in Wisconsin. Rep. Mason was joined by State Senator Nikiya Harris (D-Milwaukee) and State Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) in introducing this bill.

“Every day in our state, more than one million Wisconsin workers face the impossible choice between caring for their own or a family member’s health and keeping their paycheck or their job,” said Rep. Mason. “Many workers who lack paid sick days are living paycheck to paycheck. Staying home when illness strikes is simply not an option.”

The Earned Sick Days Act would allow workers to earn up to nine paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illnesses, access preventive care, and/or provide care to a sick family member. Workers at businesses with fewer than 10 employees could earn up to five paid sick days each year. Analysis from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research finds that 46% of Wisconsin workers (more than 1 million workers) do not have access to paid sick days.

“We applaud Rep. Mason, Rep. Sargent, and Sen. Harris for introducing the kind of common-sense paid sick days legislation that Wisconsin workers, families, and businesses urgently need,” said Vicki Shabo, director of work and family programs at the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Rep. Mason continued, “This is a reasonable, basic standard that will provide economic security for Wisconsin’s working families. Ensuring all workers can earn paid sick days is also cost effective for Wisconsin’s employers, resulting in healthier, more productive workers, and lower turnover.”

“From San Francisco and Seattle to the District of Columbia and Connecticut, paid sick days laws are working well for families and communities while strengthening local economies,” continued Vicki Shabo. “It is no wonder that poll after poll has found strong support for paid sick days among voters across all demographic and party lines. Every Wisconsin worker should be able to earn paid sick days. This bill would help make the state more family friendly. It is time.”

Rep. Mason, Sen. Harris, and Rep. Sargent are circulating the bill for legislative co-sponsorship this week and plan to formally introduce it next week.

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