

Paid Sick Days Will Benefit Public Health and Business Health

WHEREAS four out of ten workers nationwide, many of them employees in restaurants, retail, or other low-wage positions, do not have access to paid sick leave; and

WHEREAS paid sick days protect public health by encouraging sick workers and children to stay at home, away from co-workers, customers, fellow students and teachers, thus creating a healthier workplace and a more productive and profitable business environment by limiting the spread of disease, increasing customer satisfaction, and boosting employee morale; and

WHEREAS paid sick days build family economic security by ensuring that workers can care for their health needs without losing a day's wages; and

WHEREAS paid sick days lower overall health-care costs by enabling workers to seek preventive care and early treatment for themselves, their children and elderly parents; and

WHEREAS paid sick days lower business costs by increasing employee retention and avoiding costs of retraining and rehiring; and

WHEREAS in San Francisco, which enacted a paid sick-leave requirement in 2007, the majority of businesses are now supportive of the law and feel that it has not harmed their businesses nor been abused by their employees, and indeed has improved overall employee morale;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the Seattle City Council to adopt an ordinance this year establishing minimum standards of paid sick days for all employees working within the Seattle city limits, in order to make Seattle a healthier place to live, work and raise a family; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will send copies of this resolution to Mayor Michael McGinn and all Seattle City Council members.

*Adopted 4/21 and 5/9/2011 by the 46th and 37th District Democrats, respectively;
subsequent edits performed by the KCDCC Resolutions Committee*

Originally submitted by Gabriela Quintana, Seattle Coalition for a Healthy Workforce.
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