States Lead the Way in Passing Paid Sick Leave Policies
In States Yet to Act Pre-COVID Polling Still Shows Strong Support-- FL, NC, PA

Polling conducted between the 2018-2020 legislative sessions in states showed strong support for policies that provide working families with economic security. In particular, the polling found high levels of support for paid family sick leave policies.

The coronavirus pandemic brings into sharp relief the critical importance of progress that state legislators have made over the last six years to pass paid sick leave for American families. Paid Sick Leave policies passed by state legislatures are now in effect in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. Maine passed legislation in 2019 and it will take effect in 2021.

Six polling in Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania-- where state legislatures have yet to act-- has found voters hungry for stronger and more comprehensive paid sick leave policies. Below is a look at the numbers:

Florida

Below are two arguments some people have made for requiring employers to provide paid sick leave for their employees. Please indicate which of these two arguments you find to be a more convincing reason to require employers to provide paid sick leave for their employees.

We should guarantee all workers the right to earned, paid sick days off, so Floridians don't have to decide between going to doctor or caring for a sick child and making the mortgage payment or buying groceries for their family.

CONVINCING REASON 59%

We should guarantee all workers the right to earned, paid sick days off to keep our workplaces safe from infectious disease, especially those that might pose a threat to public health like grocery stores, restaurants, and schools.

CONVINCING REASON 41%

North Carolina

Next you will read some information about a proposal to establish a paid leave program.
(SPLIT A) Require all North Carolina employers to provide a minimum amount of earned, paid sick days for workers to address their own health and safety needs, as well as those of their families. *

(SPLIT B) Require large employers in North Carolina to provide a minimum amount of earned, paid sick days for workers to address their own health and safety needs, as well as those of their families. **

Based on what you just read, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose establishing a paid leave program?

SPLIT A*
- STRONGLY SUPPORT 44%
- SOMEWHAT SUPPORT 44%
- SOMEWHAT OPPOSE 6%
- STRONGLY OPPOSE 6%

SPLIT B**
- STRONGLY SUPPORT 48%
- SOMEWHAT SUPPORT 39%
- SOMEWHAT OPPOSE 10%
- STRONGLY OPPOSE 3%

ALL
- STRONGLY SUPPORT 46%
- SOMEWHAT SUPPORT 41%
- SOMEWHAT OPPOSE 8%
- STRONGLY OPPOSE 5%

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

And thinking specifically about the proposal to provide a minimum of earned, paid sick days for North Carolina workers, please select the following you find to be the more persuasive argument.

Working people, whether white, Black or brown, shouldn’t have to decide between going to a doctor or caring for a sick child and making the mortgage payment or buying groceries for their family
- PERSUASIVE 64%

We need to keep our workplaces safe from infectious disease, especially those that might pose a threat to public health, such as nursing homes, grocery stores, restaurants, and schools
- PERSUASIVE 36%

Pennsylvania

OK, now I’m going to read you some arguments people have made about issues that impact the workplace and working people here in Pennsylvania. Please tell me whether you find each argument to be very persuasive, somewhat persuasive, a little persuasive, or not at all persuasive.
*(SPLIT A) We should guarantee all workers the right to earned, paid sick days off, so Pennsylvanians don’t have to decide between going to doctor or caring for a sick child, and making the mortgage payment or buying groceries for their family.

*(SPLIT B) We should guarantee all workers the right to earned, paid sick days off, to keep our workplaces safe from infectious disease, especially those that might pose a threat to public health like grocery stores, restaurants, and schools.

FORM A
VERY PERSUASIVE 48%
SOMewhat PERSuasive 30%
A LITTLE PERSuasive 11%
NOT AT ALL PERSuasive 11%

FORM B
VERY PERSuasive 49%
SOMewhat PERSuasive 30%
A LITTLE PERSuasive 8%
NOT AT ALL PERSuasive 12%

*There were 299 respondents in Split A and 301 respondents in Split B.

ABOUT THESE POLLS

Florida: TargetSmart conducted an on-line survey of 892 adults in December 2019.


Pennsylvania: TargetSmart conducted a phone survey of 600 adults June 13-17, 2018. Margin of Error is ±4.0%.