

Practice Bill Talking Points

LB 844: Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act

What LB844 Entails

LB844 states that employees shall accrue a minimum of one hour of paid sick and safe leave time for every thirty hours worked and sets a maximum of forty hours that an employee can use in a year, with the remainder being carried into the next year. This would ensure paid time off when sickness or an unsafe situation strikes them or their loved ones.

Facts

- Nearly half (46%) of private sector workers in Nebraska **do not** have access to paid sick days.
- Worse, 7 out of 10 low-wage workers **do not** have paid sick days to care for their own health.
- In a recent survey, over 75% of Nebraskans favor policies that expand paid sick leave.

Reasons to Support

Fighting Spread of Disease: Each week about 1.5 million Americans without paid sick leave go to work despite feeling ill. At least half of employees of restaurants and hospitals — two settings where disease is easily spread — go to work when they have a cold or the flu.

Support for Survivors of Violence: Paid sick and safe days help survivors of violence access critical services without risking their financial security. Survivors of domestic violence are at an increased risk of harm during and shortly after separating from an abusive partner. It is essential that they are able to find shelter, file restraining orders, attend court dates or receive counseling to prevent further abuse and to be able to continue working.

Reduce Turnover: Paid sick days save employers money by reducing turnover, increasing productivity, and lowering healthcare costs.

Reduce Costs of Emergency Care: Paid sick days reduce costly spending on emergency health care services. If all workers had paid sick days in the United States, healthcare costs associated with emergency room use would be reduced by \$1.1 billion each year, with \$517 million in savings going to taxpayer-funded health insurance programs.