Get the Facts.
Nearly 6 million Californians
over 40% of our workforce
have 0 paid sick days.
California is Working Sick.

Our Workplaces
• Employees with paid sick days are less likely to leave their jobs.¹
• The productivity of workers with even minor illnesses goes down compared to their healthy co-workers.²
• Every worker with the flu infects 18% of his/her co-workers.³
• 87% of employers report that sick employees who show up to work are suffering from short-term illnesses such as a cold or flu.⁴
• Employees working sick (presenteeism) costs employers 180 billion dollars annually, significantly more than the annual cost of absenteeism.⁵
• Paid sick days will save California employers 2.3 billion dollars annually.⁶

Our Families
• 79% of the lowest paid workers lack paid sick days.⁷
• 70% of California food service workers lack paid sick days.⁸
• 60% of low-wage workers are women and the majority of women are primary caregivers for their families.⁹
• Half of all U.S. women forego pay when they stay home to care for a sick child.¹⁰
• Parents with paid time off are over 5 times more likely to care for their children when they are sick.¹¹
• Over 4 million Californians are caring for another adult and the majority of the time that adult is a parent over the age of 50.¹²
• 52% of workers without paid sick days find it somewhat difficult, difficult or extremely difficult to live on their household income.¹³

Our Communities
• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends: “Stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick.”¹⁴
• More than a third of flu cases are transmitted in schools and workplaces.¹⁵
• Staying at home when infected could reduce the number of people impacted by pandemic influenza by 15-34%.¹⁶
• More than half of all foodborne illness outbreaks in the U.S. occur in restaurants.¹⁷
• Nursing home outbreaks of stomach flu accounted for 6,500 patient illnesses, 120 hospitalizations, and 29 deaths in California between 2002-2004. Yet over a quarter of nursing home workers do not have paid sick days.¹⁸

For citations and more information, visit our website:
www.paid sick daysCA.org

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ENDNOTES


14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.