

Sample Letter 1

Dear editor,

Today over 106,000 employees find they are facing a very prevalent problem in Vermont: no paid sick days; that is, yearly allotments of time designated by an employer which allow an employee to stay home from work in order to take care of themselves, a sick family member, or attend a doctor's appointment—and still be paid for that day off. This means those workers are likely to find themselves in a situation where they need to choose between caring for their health or their family's health and paying the bills.

When employees come to work sick or send their children to school sick because they cannot afford to stay home, they risk the health of everyone around them; from co-workers to customers. Paid sick days are especially important this flu season. H1N1 threatens us all even without workers coming in sick. Allowing paid sick leave would not, as many people believe, hurt businesses. In fact a study done by Vicky Lovell, PHD, a researcher for the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a paid sick days standard in Vermont would actually save employers money, approximately \$2.45 per worker per week. Paid sick leave just makes sense for Vermont.

This is why I urge you to tell your legislators to support H.382. Guaranteed paid sick day legislation would be a benefit to all Vermont workers and the broader society, while putting Vermont at the forefront of a growing national movement for paid sick leave. Workers would have more freedom to move between jobs because there would be more comparable benefits. Vermont would become a more healthy community in which people could take care of their and their family's health without sacrificing the financial stability.

Sincerely,