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Dear Editor

Currently, 57% of Vermont's private-sector employers offer NO paid sick days to their workers, leaving over 106,000 Vermonters without paid sick leave. This problem must be addressed. I urge you to encourage your legislators to support H.382. Without paid sick leave, people are forced to attend work when they are ill or neglect to take care of sick family members because otherwise they will suffer economic costs from missed work and even risk being reprimanded at work. When people show-up for work sick they harm themselves while presenting a risk to their coworkers and the public through the spread of contagions. We need paid sick leave more than ever, especially during this flu season. When workers cannot recuperate from illness their productivity and ability to work declines, which hurts both the employee and the employer.

In fact, paid sick days are a savings for businesses. Guaranteed paid sick days could result in an annual savings of up to \$127 per employee. Also, paid sick days result in decreased turnover; they are part of comprehensive livable jobs, which not only attract, but also retain employees. 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.

Sincerely,