

With today's economic crisis and job uncertainty in America, now more than ever it is important for Vermonters to take a stand for paid sick leave. Over 106,000 Vermont employees receive NO paid sick days—that is, 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.

Currently there is a bill in the Vermont House that will provide guaranteed paid sick days to working Vermonters. I urge you to encourage your legislator to support H.382 because all of Vermont's employees have the right to be protected.

Guaranteed paid sick leave helps to create a healthy economy. Not only are the beneficial to employees, but they also benefit businesses. When employees show up to work sick they function inefficiently for a prolonged period of time, resulting in more lost productivity than if they had stayed home to recuperate. Guaranteed paid sick days could provide employers with an annual savings of up to \$127 per employee. As part of a comprehensive livable job, paid sick days, which not only attract, but retain employees, result in decreased turnover rates. Vermonters should consider working mothers (who tend to be the dominant caregivers), single parents, and low-wage workers who are disproportionately affected by a lack of guaranteed paid sick days, which is perpetuating economic disparity and inequality.

Help the state of Vermont regain economic stability and support H.382.