**Co-Sponsor the FAMILY Act**

**Activist Happy Hour Call-In Script**

First, check if any Member of Congress who represents you is already a co-sponsor of the bill:

* **SENATE:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/786/cosponsors> Thebill moved to the Finance Committee on March 18th. We especially need to call the Finance Committee members <https://www.finance.senate.gov/about/membership> as currently only Sherrod Brown is co-sponsoring.
* **House:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/947/cosponsors> The bill moved to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources on February 22nd, so the Republicans on this subcommittee especially need to be called <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/subcommittee/human-resources/>

If a Member of Congress who represents you **is** already a co-sponsor of the bill:

* "Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I’m a constituent of Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_; my zip code is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to thank [her/him] for [his/her] support of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (“the FAMILY Act”) introduced by [choose as appropriate] Senator Kirsten Gillibrand/Representative Rosa DeLauro.
* “The FAMILY Act would help meet the needs of new mothers and fathers, people with serious personal health issues, and people with family health issues, by creating a comprehensive national program like social security that would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of partial income, at 66% of their monthly wages. It is an affordable option for businesses, and workers at businesses of all sizes would be eligible.
* This legislation would address a number of issues that affect working people and families. Current legislation allows many workers to take unpaid leave, but about 40 percent of the workforce is not eligible under the FMLA’s rules. Millions of Americans who are covered by FMLA cannot afford to take unpaid leave, and many fall into poverty after taking unpaid leave.
* One of the benefits of the FAMILY Act is that it would provide maternity and paternity leave for new birth and adoptive parents. The US is the only developed economy that does not guarantee paid maternity leave, and only 14 percent of the workforce has paid family leave through their employers. Half of first time mothers in the US are not taking any paid leave at all, including sick leave or vacation time. New mothers with no paid leave are less likely to return to the workforce.
* It would also benefit workers who take time off to care for family. Workers aged 50 or older who take time off to care for parents lose on average more than $300,000 in foregone wages and retirement savings.
* [Optional: Add a personal anecdote about how the FAMILY Act affects you.]
* It’s crucial that the US passes legislation to address these issues. There’s wide bipartisan support for this; a recent Pew survey found that majority of Americans support paid leave for maternity, paternity, personal illness, and family illness.
* I really appreciate Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_’s support of the FAMILY Act because it is comprehensive, supports all workers, and is affordable for workers and businesses, and won’t strain existing public funds. Thank you.”

If a Member of Congress who represents you **is not** already a co-sponsor of the bill:

* "Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I am a constituent of [Senator/Representative] \_\_\_\_; my zip code is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to ask [her/him] to support the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (“the FAMILY Act”) introduced by [choose as appropriate] Senator Kirsten Gillibrand/Representative Rosa DeLauro.
* “The FAMILY Act would help meet the needs of new mothers and fathers, people with serious personal health issues, and people with family health issues, by creating a comprehensive national program like social security that would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of partial income, at 66% of their monthly wages. It is an affordable option for businesses, and workers at businesses of all sizes would be eligible.
* This legislation would address a number of issues that affect working people and families. Current legislation allows many workers to take unpaid leave, but about 40 percent of the workforce is not eligible under the FMLA’s rules. Millions of Americans who are covered by FMLA cannot afford to take unpaid leave, and many fall into poverty after taking unpaid leave.
* One of the benefits of the FAMILY Act is that it would provide maternity and paternity leave for new birth and adoptive parents. The US is the only developed economy that does not guarantee paid maternity leave, and only 14 percent of the workforce has paid family leave through their employers. Half of first time mothers in the US are not taking any paid leave at all, including sick leave or vacation time. New mothers with no paid leave are less likely to return to the workforce.
* It would also benefit workers who take time off to care for family. Workers aged 50 or older who take time off to care for parents lose on average more than $300,000 in foregone wages and retirement savings.
* [Optional: Add a personal anecdote about how the FAMILY Act affects you.]
* It’s crucial that the US passes legislation to address these issues. This will have positive economic benefits, for example by giving workers an income which they can re-invest in local economies, and encouraging workers to return to their jobs afterwards, saving businesses recruitment and re-training costs.
* I’m calling to ask Senator/Representative \_\_\_ to please co-sponsor the FAMILY Act. There’s wide bipartisan support for this; a recent Pew survey found that majority of Americans support paid leave for maternity, paternity, personal illness, and family illness. President Trump has also expressed support for maternity leave, but we need to go further by making sure that any solution supports all new parents, as well as personal illness and family illness.
* Thank you very much.”

**Additional information before making your call:**

1. Fact sheet from the National Partnership for Women and Families: <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/work-family/paid-leave/family-act-fact-sheet.pdf>
2. Statement from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand: <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/issues/paid-family-medical-leave>
3. Pew research on current attitudes to paid family and medical leave: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/03/23/americans-widely-support-paid-family-and-medical-leave-but-differ-over-specific-policies/>