

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As members of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional working group exploring solutions to expand access to paid leave for all Americans, we write with strong interest in hearing diverse stakeholder input. To inform our efforts, we invite individuals, organizations, researchers, policy experts, and others, to share your suggestions for expanding access to paid parental, caregiving, and personal medical leave in a bipartisan, fiscally responsible and sustainable way. We will closely review submissions to help inform ongoing bipartisan efforts, and individual submissions will be kept confidential. Please note, trustworthy data and research with proper citations will be appreciated.

We invite your response to the following:

1. What should the federal role be, if any, in providing, promoting, and/or incentivizing paid leave? And how should this interact with the role of state government programs, and/or employer programs?
2. What types of leave should a potential federal program cover, at what length, and why? How should different types of leave be prioritized? Should different types of leave be treated differently or does doing so create adverse effects?
3. Please describe your recommended framework/s, focusing on what you believe could be a bipartisan and passable solution/s to expanding paid leave nationally?
4. Please describe alternative ways any proposed framework can be financed, including possible payfors. What financial mechanisms should be considered to expand paid leave?
5. How can proposed paid leave frameworks avoid creating unintended distortions, such as marriage penalties, reductions of private sector paid leave coverage, etc.?
6. Should government support for paid leave be focused only on the most vulnerable individuals in our society, or on all Americans regardless of means or need?
7. What supports do small and mid-sized businesses need from the federal government to provide paid leave to workers?
8. What does research say about the impact of providing paid leave on worker health, job satisfaction, economic mobility, child development, breastfeeding rates and related health outcomes, fertility rate, infant mortality, elderly health, public assistance levels, family income, and recruitment and retention efforts?
9. What lessons should the federal government learn from successful or failed attempts at expanding paid leave in U.S. states or other countries?
10. What other information would you like us to consider as we attempt to chart a bipartisan path forward?

Please send responses to PaidLeave_RFI@gillibrand.senate.gov, PaidLeave_RFI@cassidy.senate.gov, Emma.Zafran@mail.house.gov, and Jill.Rammrath@mail.house.gov by January 31, 2024. Responses will be treated as confidential and not released publicly without your approval. We look forward to reviewing your submissions.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

Chrissy Houlahan

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Stephanie D. Bice

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Maggie Hassan

Maggie Hassan
United States Senator

Cynthia Lummis

Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Thom Tillis

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Todd Young

Todd Young
United States Senator

Colin Allred

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Julia Letlow

Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks

Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress