

Working Matters Maryland

Earned Sick and Safe Time Act

BECAUSE: Nearly four in 10 private-sector workers — and more than 800,000 Marylanders — cannot earn paid sick days to care for their own health; and,

BECAUSE: In these tough economic times many Maryland families face financial crises of their own. Taking time off from work due to illness or family emergency means risking job loss and sacrificing much-needed income at a time when they can least afford it; and,

BECAUSE: Businesses benefit when their employees earn access to paid sick days. When sick workers are able to stay home, the spread of disease slows, workplace injuries are less frequent, and workplaces are both healthier and more productive; and,

BECAUSE: Children inevitably get sick – and they get better faster when their parents care for them. Unfortunately, thousands of Maryland parents without paid sick days are left with impossible choices: leave a sick child home alone, send a sick child to school or day care, or stay home with the child and risk losing pay or being fired; and,

BECAUSE: Parents without paid sick days are more than twice as likely as parents with paid sick days to send a sick child to school or day care, and five times more likely to report taking their child or a family member to the emergency room because they were unable to take time off work during normal work hours; and,

BECAUSE: Working women are more likely to have significant caregiving responsibilities, yet women-dominated industries are among the *least likely* to offer paid sick days; and,

BECAUSE: More than 80 percent of low-wage workers lack access to paid sick days. Of greater concern for public health and contagion prevention, less than one-quarter of food preparation and serving workers have access to paid sick days.

BECAUSE: Nearly one in four American women report physical or sexual abuse by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Many workers need time off to care for their health after these incidents or to seek legal protections or new housing. Without paid sick and safe days, survivors of domestic and sexual violence are in danger of losing their jobs; and,

BECAUSE: Voters agree that paid sick days are a critical aspect of job quality. Eighty-four percent of Maryland voters favor a law that guarantees paid sick leave for all workers.

BECAUSE: Everyone gets sick — and everyone deserves time to get better without risking their economic stability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the undersigned individual supports the Earned Sick and Safe Time Act, which will establish a paid sick days standard for Maryland by requiring employers to allow workers to earn a limited number of annual paid sick days.

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please return to: Job Opportunities Task Force
111 Water Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21202
FAX 410-234-8929 or e-mail to melissa@jotf.org**