



News From:

U.S. Congressman John B. Larson

serving Connecticut's First District

106 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

221 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106

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CONTACT: Emily Barocas/202-225-7295

LARSON: PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT PUTS WORKING FAMILIES FIRST

Congressman authored one of nation's first family leave laws

Washington, DC - The House of Representatives passed legislation today that will provide federal employees with up to four weeks of paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child, bringing the federal government up to the same standards as most private sector employees. The Federal Employee Paid Parental Leave Act puts America's working families first.

Congressman John B. Larson (*CT-01*), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said:

"Twenty years ago, as President Pro Tem of the Connecticut State Senate, I

proudly sponsored the nation's first family and medical leave bill to be signed into law, written with the help of renowned expert Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University. The State of Connecticut became a laboratory for legislation that provided leave for new parents and caretakers, and a similar bill was eventually adopted on a national level. I said then, and I still believe, that the family has taken a back seat in many of our social and economic priorities and it is our duty to stand up for the American family now. Investing in our families is the best way to prepare the next generation for the future."

"The legislation that passed the House today once again puts working families first by providing federal employees with four weeks of paid leave after the birth or adoption of a child. This means that new parents won't have to choose between their paycheck and spending time with their child. It protects the crucial first few weeks of a child's life in the home - giving parents time to bond with and care for their new child or infant.

"By passing the Paid Parental Leave Act we will provide federal employees with benefits similar to many private sector employees - and help set a new standard for other employers who don't provide this type of leave. The legislation gives the federal government the tools it needs to recruit and retain a topnotch workforce and save money by reducing the costs of turnover and lost employees.

"Preserving the American family should be one of our top priorities. In 1990 I wrote that the 'days of the traditional male breadwinner and the stay-at home mother are gone for many people.' That is even truer today. Things have changed and rather than pretend they haven't, we must adapt the workplace to accommodate the progress our nation has made. This legislation does just that."

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