

SUPPORT LB 311

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR NEBRASKANS

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE ACT—LB 311

**Business and Labor Committee Hearing
(Room 1524, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE)
Monday, February 4 at 1:30 pm**

Working families in Nebraska deserve support. Nearly everyone at some point in their life experiences the need to take time away from work to care for one's own health or to provide care for a family member or child. Too many workers in our state are forced to choose between their jobs and being there for a dying parent's last days, caring for a newborn child during those fragile first weeks, or even caring for themselves during an unexpected illness because of a lack of paid leave policy.

**NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR
JOB AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THERE FOR THE MOST
IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN OUR FAMILIES' LIVES.**

LB 311, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act:

- Provides paid leave for workers to care for themselves or a family member with a serious health condition, a new child, or a military family member preparing for or returning from deployment;
- Pays employees a portion of wages on a sliding scale; and
- Would be funded by contributions from covered employers (employers who wish to provide comparable coverage on their own can opt-out).

Here are **4** ways you and your fellow advocates you can support our efforts:

1) Share your story with the Business and Labor Committee at the hearing—Monday, Feb. 4 at 1:30 pm—approx. 5 pm (or later). Whether you're a parent, a parent-to-be, a caregiver, or a worker that has experienced a serious health condition, sharing personal stories about how paid family and medical leave could impact you will help the Senators understand why Nebraskans need paid leave.

- Limit your spoken comments to around three minutes.
- You may also submit written testimony. Bring 10 copies of your written testimony to give to Committee members.
- The hearing will be in Room 1524 of the State Capitol. It begins at 1:30 pm and may last until 5 pm, or possibly later—depending upon the number of testifiers.
- If you plan to testify and/or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Seibert Joekel at the Women's Fund (TJoekel@OmahaWomensFund.org or 402-827-9280), so that we know how many testifiers to expect.

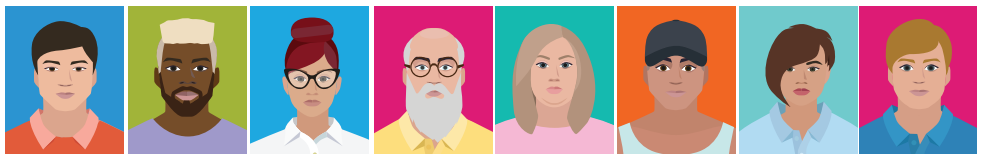
2) Show your support—pack the hearing room! Monday, Feb. 4 at 1:30 pm—approx. 5 pm (or later). Even if you don't plan to testify in person and/or have already submitted a letter, please show up and let the Committee know how important this issue is to you. And bring friends.

3) Write a Letter of Support—Deadline: Friday, February 1 at 5 pm.

If you can't attend the hearing in person, you can send a letter to the Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Matt Hansen, at mhansen@leg.ne.gov. Letters may be typed in a separate document and attached to your email. Be sure to mention in your email: "Please see the attached letter of support for LB 311 to be entered into the record."

4) Reach out to members of the Business and Labor Committee members to express your support (contact information listed on the back of this page).

**WOMEN'S
FUND** of Omaha



BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

STATE SENATOR	DISTRICT (CITY)	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Senator Matt Hansen, Chairman	26 (Lincoln)	mhansen@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2610
Senator Ben Hansen, Vice Chair	16 (Blair)	bhansen@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2728
Senator Ernie Chambers	11 (Omaha)	NO EMAIL ADDRESS	(402) 471-2612
Senator Sue Crawford	45 (Bellevue)	scrawford@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2615
Senator Steve Halloran	33 (Hastings)	shalloran@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2712
Senator Steve Lathrop	12 (Omaha)	slathrop@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2623
Senator Julie Slama	1 (Peru)	jslama@leg.ne.gov	(402) 471-2733

Draft support letter format:

Dear Chairman Hansen and members of the Business and Labor Committee,

My name is _____, and I live at [insert address].

Please support LB 311, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act because no Nebraskan should have to choose between their job and caring for their loved ones.

- **Share your story:** *Why does paid leave matter to you and your family? How has paid leave impacted you or your family? How has a lack of paid leave impacted you and your family?*
 - » [Insert your own story of caring for a loved one and the impact of having or not having paid leave]
 - » [Insert your own story of giving birth or adopting a child and the impact of having or not having paid leave]
- **Other potential talking points:**
 - » Nearly everyone at some point in their life experiences the need to take time away from work to care for one's own health or to provide care for a family member or child.
 - » Too many workers in our state are forced to choose between their jobs and being there for a dying parent's last days, caring for a newborn child during those fragile first weeks, or even caring for themselves during an unexpected illness because of a lack of paid leave policy.
 - » Women should have not to sacrifice their careers or earning potential to care for their families.

Every worker in Nebraska should have the opportunity to be there for the most important moments in our families' lives. Please support LB 311 and stand with Nebraska families!

Thank you,

[insert name]

[insert address]

WORKING FAMILIES IN NEBRASKA DESERVE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE. SUPPORT LB 311 TODAY!

