



Work & Family Bill of Rights

Families face a shortfall of time and money for care. A majority of America's children have no one at home full-time to care for them, while others, including the elderly and people with disabilities, increasingly need care. Jobs divide employees into those with high pay, benefits, but long hours and little time for family or leisure, and those with low wages, few benefits, and insufficient flexibility and financial resources to care for their families. We can and should do better. Working families have fundamental rights to financially sustain and to care for themselves and their families. These rights include:

1. The right to annual paid family, medical and personal leave for full- and part-time employees. Minimum standards for leave are:
 - a. two weeks of employer-funded paid personal leave for all employees to be taken at the time of their choosing.
 - b. seven days of employer-funded sick time for personal or family illness
 - c. 12 weeks of paid leave for parents of newborn, adoptive and foster children, and for serious illness of the employee, a child, a parent or other relative, spouse or partner.
 - d. 16 hours of employer-funded leave to be taken in small increments for doctor's appointments, parent-teacher meetings, and other small necessities.
2. The right to negotiated flexibility over work hours and place:
 - a. the ability to shift between full-time and reduced hours as family and personal circumstances change.
 - b. equal pay rates and at least pro-rated benefits for reduced hours employees
 - c. no mandatory overtime.
 - d. flexible schedules and place of work, mutually agreed upon by employees and employers.
3. The right to quality, affordable child and elder care.
4. The right to a minimum wage set at a living wage level and indexed to inflation.
5. The right to adequate health insurance for all.

These rights shall apply to all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, place of birth, religion, sexual orientation, or marital, family or disability status.

From the Take Care Net www.takecarenet.org