



April 5, 2016

Los Angeles Economic Development Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St., Room 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Adam Lid, Legislative Assistant

Re: Council File 14-1731- Follow-up Policy Elements for a Citywide Minimum Wage

Honorable Council Members,

The Main Street Alliance strongly supports a Los Angeles citywide paid sick days law. Our member businesses in Los Angeles and throughout the country know that offering paid sick days is not only the right thing to do for our employees and their families; it is also smart business. When workers are able to take the time they need to recover from illness or care for a sick family member, they are more productive, loyal, and committed, resulting in lower turnover and a boosting out bottom lines.

Our members have proudly supported the passage of paid sick days bills in Seattle, Vermont, Oregon, New York City, several cities in New Jersey, and a host of other jurisdictions that offer at least five days and up to nine days of paid sick time to their workers. Although you may hear opposition to a citywide paid sick days law in Los Angeles from groups claiming to represent small business, the members of the Main Street Alliance support this important labor protection, and we are not alone.

In San Francisco, two thirds of employers support the law; in Connecticut, three quarters support the law; and in Seattle, 70 percent support the law.¹ Moreover, a recently leaked survey of one thousand C-level executives, the majority of whom represent businesses that are members of their local, state, or national Chamber of Commerce, found that 73 percent of the respondents (and 85 percent in the west) support more paid sick time for workers.²

This support reflects the reality of paid sick days laws: rather than harming business, they often give employers a boost. In San Francisco, where employees can earn between five and nine sick days per year, more than two thirds of employers reported no impact on profitability as a result of the city's paid sick days law (and 15 percent did not know).³ In Connecticut, employers reported little effect of the law on costs and increased productivity and morale among workers.⁴ Jersey City employers also reported improved productivity and reduced turnover.⁵ Moreover, data from San Francisco, Seattle, Connecticut, and New York City demonstrates no negative effects on the local economies.⁶

Main Street Alliance applauds the Los Angeles City Council's leadership in passing a \$15 minimum wage; we were among the groups that supported this important step for the city, state, and nation. We now urge you to stand with Los Angeles' high road employers and workers and ensure that workers don't lose their wages or their jobs when they need time to recover from illness or care for their families. The state law, which only requires employers to allow workers to use up to three paid sick days per year, is a step in the right direction, but does not fully meet the needs of Angelenos. We can do better.

We urge the committee to support a strong local paid sick days law. It is essential for healthy workers and healthy businesses in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Amanda Ballantyne
National Director, Main Street Alliance

¹ <http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/San-Fran-PSD>; <http://cepr.net/blogs/cepr-blog/is-paid-sick-leave-good-for-business>; http://www.seattlemet.com/data/files/2014/4/attachment/194/PSSTO_UWReport_wAppendices_copy.pdf

² http://www.prwatch.org/files/cmd_prwatch_markup_of_01-05-16_state_chambers_topline_poll.pdf

³ <http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/San-Fran-PSD>;

⁴ <http://cepr.net/blogs/cepr-blog/is-paid-sick-leave-good-for-business>;

⁵ http://cww.rutgers.edu/sites/cww.rutgers.edu/files/documents/working_families/Jersey_City_ESD_Issue_Brief.pdf

⁶ <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/about/PaidSickLeaveLaw-FirstYearMilestones.pdf>; <http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/san-francisco-employment-growth-remains-stronger-with-paid-sick-days-law-thansurrounding-counties>; <http://www.voicesforvorkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Seattle-PSD-1-Year-Report-by-MSA.pdf>; <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/work-family/psd/paid-sick-days-low-cost-high-reward.pdf>