

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We were pleased to see reports this week that the Administration is considering an Executive Order that would require federal contractors to provide paid sick time. More than 43 million private-sector workers in the United States do not have paid sick days, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That has negative consequences for public health, and it also affects the economic security of hardworking Americans who have to sacrifice a day's pay or their job altogether just to take care of themselves or their sick child.

As you know, we have sponsored a bill– the Healthy Families Act – which would require employers to provide seven paid sick days a year. Unfortunately, enactment is unlikely to occur before expiration of your Presidential term. An Executive Order containing such a requirement for federal contractors could help 28 million people and build on the momentum to expand access to paid sick days to workers across the country.

We look forward to an Executive Order that expands access to paid sick days as quickly as possible. Our nation needs it.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions



Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health, Human Services,
and Education



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education
and the Workforce