

# The Ohio Healthy Families Campaign

## What We are Doing

Too many Ohioans are forced every day to choose between a sick child or parent and their paycheck. That's just wrong. It's bad for Ohio's middle class families and it's ultimately bad for Ohio businesses. Now, we have a chance to do something about it.

The Ohio Healthy Families Act would require businesses with more than 25 workers to allow full-time employees to earn 7 paid sick days per year. Part-time workers could earn a smaller, pro-rated number of paid sick days depending on the number of hours worked.

Under the proposed Act, earned sick time could be used by an employee for an absence to care for themselves, children, parent or spouse who has a physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition or needs a diagnosis or preventive medical care.

This reasonable measure is about basic fairness and fundamental American values. Giving workers the right to earn paid sick days is the right thing to do for middle class families and for Ohio's future.

## Our Goal and Timeline

The Ohio Healthy Families Campaign is scheduled to officially begin on May 8, 2007. The campaign's goal is to submit the legislation and over 120,000 valid signatures to the Ohio General Assembly at the end of December 2007.

## How You Can Help

### **1. Endorse the Ohioans for Healthy Families Campaign**

By endorsing the campaign, you are agreeing that you will work to build a broad-based, non-partisan coalition effort to ensure passage of the Ohio Healthy Families Act. Your organization's name may be used in a list of coalition members and as endorsers of the coalition efforts.

### **2. Help gather signatures**

We have to gather over 120,000 signatures in order to submit our legislation to the Ohio General Assembly. You can help by having your organization's members sign the petition; organizing a canvass for signatures; or asking your members to gather signatures from their friends and family.

### **3. Be an active partner**

Being an active partner means you'll promote the Ohio Healthy Families Act and Campaign throughout your organization. We invite you to be a part of our "Speaker's Bureau" or part of the "Communication Team". There are many different ways to get active—and our campaign will help give you the tools you'll need to get started.

## For More Information

For more information on the Ohio Healthy Families Act and for ways for you and your organization can get involved, please contact the campaign director, Megan Vahey, via phone (614-404-3990) or email ([mvahey@seiu1199.org](mailto:mvahey@seiu1199.org)).