



June 5, 2009

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi:

I am writing on behalf of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR) to express concern with the Healthy Families Act (S. 1152) which is currently before your committee. While IPMA-HR supports the overall goal of the Healthy Families Act, the Association is concerned that this one-size-fits-all solution burdens already strained state and local government budgets.

IPMA-HR is an association that represents more than 10,000 human resource professionals working for local, state and federal governments. The association's members are the ones with primary responsibility for implementing leave programs.

In most instances, the leave benefits provided to full-time public employees exceed the requirements contained in S. 1152. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that 87 percent of state and local workers have access to paid sick leave. Currently, state and local government employers craft a variety of generous benefits to attract and retain workers. We strongly believe that a federal mandate is both unnecessary and disruptive to the balance that government employers strive for when crafting leave and benefit packages.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you in greater detail. I may be reached at (703) 549-7100 or via email at nreichenberg@ipma-hr.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Neil E. Reichenberg
Executive Director