



June 18, 2007

Hon. Joseph Bruno  
New York State Senate Majority Leader  
909 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

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RE: SUPPORT PAID FAMILY LEAVE

Dear Senator Bruno:

The Women's City Club of New York (WCC) supports legislation that would provide paid family and medical leave for the workers of New York State. We respectfully urge you to ensure its passage in the State Senate. The WCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that since 1915 has shaped public policy through education, advocacy and citizen participation.

We recognize that the federal Family and Medical Leave Act was a monumental step towards our nation's goal of being a society that values families. However, we see it only as a first step. Far too many New Yorkers do not have access to FMLA protections, and an even greater number cannot afford to take unpaid leave. New York State's pending legislation would relieve some of the burden placed on workers during their greatest time of need.

This legislation also would especially benefit women, who oftentimes are the primary caregivers and thus the ones responsible for trying to balance the needs of family and their work responsibilities.

We urge you to join with the State Assembly in passing this legislation so that a bill can be sent to the Governor to sign before the end of this legislative session.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth E. Acker  
President

Marjorie Ives, Chair  
Women's Issues Committee

cc Senate Rules Committee  
Senate Labor Committee