$15 Minimum Wage and Access to Paid Earned Sick Leave Good for Missouri Kids and Families

We all benefit when working parents earn enough to support their families and can care for their health and their children’s health without risking their jobs or paychecks. An upcoming initiative on the 2024 ballot would build prosperity for Missouri families and communities by providing a much-needed raise and guaranteeing earned sick leave for Missouri workers.

Increasing The Minimum Wage and Access to Earned Sick Leave Improves the Lives of Children and Families

Jobs that pay a decent wage and provide access to paid leave allow working parents to better support their children and family. Yet too many Missouri parents do not earn enough to make ends meet, or they risk losing pay or their job to care for sick children. Many states and localities have already made the choice to put in place a common set of guardrails to ensure better outcomes for kids and families because:

**Increases in the Minimum Wage associated with:**
- Improved birth outcomes and reduced teen birth rates.\textsuperscript{ii}
- Reductions in child maltreatment and neglect.\textsuperscript{iii,iv}
- Improved behavioral outcomes for children.\textsuperscript{v}
- Fewer financial, partner-related, and stressful life events among mothers\textsuperscript{vi} and an increase in the time mothers spend with their children on both care and enrichment activities.\textsuperscript{vii}

**Parents with access to paid sick leave are:**
- 3 times less likely to skip needed medical care for themselves, and 1.6 times less likely to skip needed medical care for a family member.\textsuperscript{x}

**Children whose parents have paid sick leave are:**
- More likely to receive preventive services such as well-child visits and vaccinations.\textsuperscript{viii}
- Have fewer delays in medical care and fewer ER visits.\textsuperscript{ix}
Notes


vii. Care activities include providing or obtaining medical care, attending school meetings or conferences, and enrichment includes activities such as reading with children, helping with homework, and playing sports together; Gearhart, Richard, Lyudmyla Sonchak-Ardan, and Raphael Thibault. "The impact of minimum wage on parental time allocation to children: evidence from the American Time Use Survey." Review of Economics of the Household 21.3 (2023): 1019-1042.

viii. DeRigne, LeaAnne, Patricia Stoddard-Dare, and Linda Quinn. "Workers without paid sick leave less likely to take time off for illness or injury compared to those with paid sick leave." Health Affairs 35.3 (2016): 520-527.


x. Ibid.