111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 4092

To allow Americans to receive paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs, and the health needs of their families, related to a contagious illness.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Ms. Delauro introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To allow Americans to receive paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs, and the health needs of their families, related to a contagious illness.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Pandemic Protection
- 5 for Workers, Families, and Businesses Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:

- 1 (1) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis2 tics, between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 United
 3 States workers have no paid sick leave to use when
 4 they or their family members are sick. Only 1 in 4
 5 low-wage workers has paid sick days and often low6 wage workers are the workers most likely to have
 7 jobs that require frequent contact with the public.
 - (2) The lack of paid sick days presents a threat to the United States economy and to public health, particularly in the face of a pandemic illness such as the 2009 H1N1 influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that an individual who comes to work with the 2009 H1N1 influenza will transmit the illness to approximately 8 to 12 percent of the individual's coworkers. This workplace transmission presents a serious threat to business operations, as many businesses do not have contingency plans in place to address the possibility of mass absences due to the spread of a pandemic illness or other contagious illness.
 - (3) Hundreds of schools have already been closed this year because of the spread of influenza, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, early childhood settings like child care facilities are at high risk for transmission of ill-

- 1 ness due to their highly vulnerable populations.
- These schools and settings are also workplaces for
- many professionals who are at risk of infecting each
- 4 other as well as children.
- (4) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-6 vention strongly recommends that people with the 7 2009 H1N1 influenza or influenza-like symptoms 8 stay home for at least 24 hours after their fevers 9 end. Experts estimate that if workers followed the 10 recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control 11 and Prevention, the workers could reduce the num-12 ber of people infected by a pandemic of influenza by 13 15 to 34 percent.
 - (5) Providing a minimum standard for paid sick days will enable United States workers to follow this important recommendation without putting their jobs or their paychecks at risk.

18 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

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- 19 The purposes of this Act are—
- 20 (1) to minimize the spread of contagious ill-21 nesses in the workplace and prevent disruptions to
- 22 interstate commerce;
- 23 (2) to ensure that all working Americans can 24 address their own health needs and the health needs 25 of their children, related to a contagious illness, by

- requiring employers to provide up to 7 days of paid sick time to their employees;
- 3 (3) to diminish public and private health care 4 costs by enabling employees to seek early and rou-5 tine medical care for themselves and their children, 6 related to a contagious illness;
 - (4) to provide paid sick time to employees due to closure of a place of business due to a contagious illness or a need to care for a child whose school or child care or early childhood program has been closed due to a contagious illness; and
- 12 (5) to accomplish the purposes described in 13 paragraphs (1) through (4) in a manner that is fea-14 sible for employers.

15 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

16 In this Act:

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- 17 (1) CHILD.—The term "child" means a child, 18 as defined by the Secretary in consultation with the 19 Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- 20 (2) CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS.—The term "con-21 tagious illness", as defined by the Secretary of 22 Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Health 23 and Human Services, includes influenza-like illnesses 24 such as an illness from the 2009 H1N1 virus.

1	(3) Covered Employee.—The term "covered
2	employee" means an individual who—
3	(A) has been employed for not less than 30
4	days by the covered employer from whom paid
5	sick time is requested; and
6	(B) is—
7	(i) an employee, as defined in section
8	701(f) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
9	U.S.C. 2000e(f)), but including an indi-
10	vidual employed by an Indian tribe;
11	(ii) a State employee described in sec-
12	tion 304(a) of the Government Employee
13	Rights Act of 1991 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-
14	16c(a));
15	(iii) a covered employee, as defined in
16	section 101 of the Congressional Account-
17	ability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301), other
18	than an applicant for employment;
19	(iv) a covered employee, as defined in
20	section 411(c) of title 3, United States
21	Code; or
22	(v) an employee or applicant to which
23	section 717(a) of the Civil Rights Act of
24	1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16(a)) applies.
25	(4) Covered employer.—

1	(A) In general.—The term "covered em-
2	ployer" means a person who—
3	(i) is—
4	(I) an employer (as defined in
5	section 701(b) of the Civil Rights Act
6	of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(b))), but
7	including an Indian tribe;
8	(II) an entity employing a State
9	employee described in section 304(a)
10	of the Government Employee Rights
11	Act of 1991;
12	(III) an employing office, as de-
13	fined in section 101 of the Congres-
14	sional Accountability Act of 1995;
15	(IV) an employing office, as de-
16	fined in section 411(c) of title 3,
17	United States Code; or
18	(V) an entity to which section
19	717(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
20	applies;
21	(ii) who employs 15 or more employ-
22	ees for each working day during each of 20
23	or more calendar workweeks in the current
24	or preceding calendar year; and

- 1 (iii) is engaged in commerce (includ2 ing government) or in any industry or ac3 tivity affecting commerce (including gov4 ernment).
 - (5) EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.—The term "employment benefits" means all benefits provided or made available to covered employees by a covered employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits, and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by a practice or written policy of a covered employer or through an "employee benefit plan", as defined in section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(3)).
 - (6) Paid sick time.—The term "paid sick time" means an increment of compensated leave that can be received by a covered employee for use during an absence from employment for any of the reasons described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 5(b).
- (7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" meansthe Secretary of Labor.
- 24 (8) Symptoms of a contagious illness' means

1 or more symptoms, as determined to be appro-2 priate by the Secretary in consultation with the Sec-3 retary of Health and Human Services, of a con-4 tagious illness, including influenza-like illnesses such 5 as an illness from the 2009 H1N1 virus.

6 SEC. 5. PROVISION OF PAID SICK TIME.

(a) Paid Sick Time.—

(1) In General.—

- (A) Full-time employees.—A covered employer shall annually provide, to each covered employee employed by the employer on a full-time basis (as defined by the Secretary), not less than 7 days of paid sick time, with employment benefits.
- (B) Part-time employees.—The employer shall annually provide, to each covered employee employed by the employer on less than a full-time basis (as defined by the Secretary), a number of days or hours of paid sick time, with employment benefits. The number of days or hours shall be determined under a formula specified by the Secretary and designed to provide an approximate pro rata share of the 7-day period described in subparagraph (A), based on the hours worked by the employee.

- 1 (C) Uses.—The paid sick time provided 2 under this section shall be used as described in 3 subsection (b).
 - (2) Covered employers with a paid leave Policies.—Any covered employer with a paid leave policy who annually provides, to each covered employee, 7 days of paid leave that may be used for the same purposes and under the same conditions as the purposes and conditions outlined in subsection (b), shall not be required to provide additional paid sick time to the employee under this section.
 - (3) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring financial or other reimbursement to a covered employee from a covered employer upon the employee's termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment for paid sick time that has not been used.
 - (4) Prohibition.—A covered employer may not require, as a condition of providing paid sick time under this Act, that the covered employee involved search for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during which the employee is using paid sick time.

- 1 (b) USES.—Paid sick time provided under this sec-2 tion may be used by a covered employee for any of the
- (1)(A) An absence resulting from the medical condition of a covered employee experiencing the symptoms of a contagious illness, including the need to obtain medical diagnosis or care, or an absence to obtain preventive care for the employee for a contagious illness.
 - (B) An absence due to a determination by a health authority having jurisdiction or by a health care provider that the covered employee's presence on the job would jeopardize the health of others because of the employee's exposure to a contagious illness.
 - (2)(A) An absence for the purpose of caring for a child of the covered employee who is experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness, including the need to obtain medical diagnosis or care, or an absence to obtain preventive care for the child for a contagious illness.
 - (B) An absence for the purpose of caring for a child of the covered employee due to a determination by a health authority having jurisdiction or by a health care provider that the child's presence in the

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- community would jeopardize the health of others because of the child's exposure to a contagious illness.
- 3 (3) Closure of the covered employee's place of 4 business due to a contagious illness or a covered em-5 ployee's need to care for a child whose school or 6 child care or early childhood program has been 7 closed due to a contagious illness.

8 (c) Medical Certification Requirements.—

- (1) Request.—Paid sick time shall be provided upon the oral or written request of a covered employee.
- (2) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary, and other authorities who may issue regulations under section 12, may issue regulations under that section regarding medical certification requirements for a period of paid sick time under this Act. The Secretary shall issue any such regulations after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. A covered employer may not require a covered employee to provide medical certification inconsistent with the regulations, to receive paid sick time under this section.
- 23 SEC. 6. POSTING REQUIREMENT.
- 24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each covered employer—

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1	(1) shall post and keep posted a notice, to be
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3	specified in regulations prescribed under section 12
4	setting forth excerpts from, or summaries of, the
5	pertinent provisions of this Act; and
6	(2) shall take other reasonable measures speci-
7	fied in the regulations to inform covered employees
8	of their rights under those provisions.
9	(b) VIOLATION; PENALTY.—Any covered employer
10	who willfully violates the requirements of this section shall
11	be subject to a civil fine in an amount not to exceed \$100
12	for each separate offense.
13	SEC. 7. PROHIBITED ACTS.
14	(a) Interference With Rights.—
15	(1) Exercise of rights.—It shall be unlawful
16	for any covered employer to interfere with, restrain
17	or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise
18	any right provided under this Act, including—
19	(A) discharging or discriminating against
20	(including retaliating against) any individual
21	including a job applicant, for exercising, or at-
22	tempting to exercise, any right provided under
23	this Act;
24	(B) using the taking of paid sick time
25	under this Act as a negative factor in an em-

1	ployment action, such as hiring, promotion, or
2	a disciplinary action; or
3	(C) counting the paid sick time under a
4	no-fault attendance policy or any other absence
5	control policy.
6	(2) DISCRIMINATION.—It shall be unlawful for
7	any covered employer to discharge or in any other
8	manner discriminate against (including retaliating
9	against) any individual, including a job applicant
10	for opposing any practice made unlawful by this Act
11	(b) Interference With Proceedings or Inquir-
12	IES.—It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or
13	in any other manner discriminate against (including retali-
14	ating against) any individual, including a job applicant
15	because such individual—
16	(1) has filed an action, or has instituted or
17	caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or re-
18	lated to this Act;
19	(2) has given, or is about to give, any informa-
20	tion in connection with any inquiry or proceeding re-
21	lating to any right provided under this Act; or
22	(3) has testified, or is about to testify, in any
23	inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided
24	under this Act.

1 SEC. 8. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

2	(a) In General.—
3	(1) Definition.—In this subsection:
4	(A) the term "covered employee" means a
5	covered employee described in clause (i) or (ii)
6	of section $4(3)(B)$; and
7	(B) the term "covered employer" means a
8	covered employer described in subclause (I) or
9	(II) of section $4(4)(A)(i)$.
10	(2) Civil action by covered employees or
11	INDIVIDUALS.—
12	(A) RIGHT OF ACTION.—An action to re-
13	cover the damages or equitable relief prescribed
14	in subparagraph (B) may be maintained
15	against any covered employer in any Federal or
16	State court of competent jurisdiction by one or
17	more covered employees or individuals or their
18	representative for and on behalf of—
19	(i) the covered employees or individ-
20	uals; or
21	(ii) the covered employees or individ-
22	uals and others similarly situated.
23	(B) Liability.—Any covered employer
24	who violates section 7 (including a violation re-
25	lating to rights provided under section 5) shall
26	be liable to any covered employee or individual

affected for damages and equitable relief, cor-responding to that employee or individual, de-scribed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of para-graph (1) of section 107(a) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29)2617(a)). In applying those subparagraphs, a reference to a time period shall be considered to be reference to 7 days. Paragraph (3) of that section shall apply to the action.

(3) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—Section 107(b) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 2617(b)) shall apply to complaints of violations described in paragraph (2)(B), with respect to employees, individuals, and damages described in that paragraph.

(4) Limitation.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—An action may be brought under paragraph (2), (3), or (5) not later than 1 year after the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which the action is brought.
- (B) COMMENCEMENT.—In determining when an action is commenced under paragraph (2), (3), or (5) for the purposes of this paragraph, it shall be considered to be commenced on the date when the complaint is filed.

- 1 (5) ACTION FOR INJUNCTION BY SECRETARY.—
- 2 Section 107(d) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 2617(d)) shall
- apply to violations described in paragraph (2)(B),
- 4 with respect to employees and individuals described
- 5 in that paragraph.
- 6 (b) Employees Covered by Congressional Ac-
- 7 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The powers, remedies, and
- 8 procedures provided in the Congressional Accountability
- 9 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) to the Board (as de-
- 10 fined in section 101 of that Act (2 U.S.C. 1301)), or any
- 11 person, alleging a violation of section 202(a)(1) of that
- 12 Act (2 U.S.C. 1312(a)(1)) shall be the powers, remedies,
- 13 and procedures this Act provides to that Board, or any
- 14 person, alleging an unlawful employment practice in viola-
- 15 tion of this Act against a covered employee described in
- 16 section 4(3)(B)(iii).
- 17 (c) Employees Covered by Chapter 5 of Title
- 18 3, United States Code.—The powers, remedies, and
- 19 procedures provided in chapter 5 of title 3, United States
- 20 Code, to the President, the Merit Systems Protection
- 21 Board, or any person, alleging a violation of section
- 22 412(a)(1) of that title, shall be the powers, remedies, and
- 23 procedures this Act provides to the President, that Board,
- 24 or any person, respectively, alleging an unlawful employ-

- 1 ment practice in violation of this Act against a covered
- 2 employee described in section 4(3)(B)(iv).
- 3 (d) Employees Covered by Section 717 of the
- 4 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.—The powers, remedies, and
- 5 procedures provided in title 5, United States Code, to an
- 6 employing agency, provided in chapter 12 of that title to
- 7 the Merit Systems Protection Board, or provided under
- 8 that title to any person, alleging a violation of chapter 63
- 9 of that title, shall be the powers, remedies, and procedures
- 10 this Act provides to that agency, that Board, or any per-
- 11 son, respectively, alleging an unlawful employment prac-
- 12 tice in violation of this Act against a covered employee
- 13 described in section 4(3)(B)(v).
- 14 (e) Remedies for State Employees.—
- 15 (1) Waiver of Sovereign immunity.—A
- 16 State's receipt or use of Federal financial assistance
- for any program or activity of a State shall con-
- stitute a waiver of sovereign immunity, under the
- 19 11th Amendment to the Constitution or otherwise,
- to a suit brought by a covered employee of that pro-
- 21 gram or activity under this Act for equitable, legal,
- or other relief authorized under this Act.
- 23 (2) Official Capacity.—An official of a State
- may be sued in the official capacity of the official by
- any covered employee who has complied with the

- 1 procedures under subsection (a)(2), for injunctive re-
- 2 lief that is authorized under this Act. In such a suit
- 3 the court may award to the prevailing party those
- 4 costs authorized by section 722 of the Revised Stat-
- 5 utes (42 U.S.C. 1988).
- 6 (3) APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a par-
- 7 ticular program or activity, paragraph (1) applies to
- 8 conduct occurring on or after the day, after the date
- 9 of enactment of this Act, on which a State first re-
- 10 ceives or uses Federal financial assistance for that
- 11 program or activity.
- 12 (4) Definition of Program or activity.—In
- this subsection, the term "program or activity" has
- the meaning given the term in section 606 of the
- 15 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d–4a).
- 16 SEC. 9. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.
- 17 (a) Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.—
- 18 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or affect
- 19 the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C.
- 20 2601 et seq.).
- 21 (b) STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act
- 22 shall be construed to supersede (including preempting)
- 23 any provision of any State or local law that provides great-
- 24 er paid sick time or leave rights (including greater paid
- 25 sick time or leave, or greater coverage of those eligible for

- 1 paid sick time or leave) than the rights established under
- 2 this Act.

3 SEC. 10. EFFECT ON EXISTING EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

- 4 (a) More Protective.—Nothing in this Act shall
- 5 be construed to diminish the obligation of a covered em-
- 6 ployer to comply with any contract, collective bargaining
- 7 agreement, or any employment benefit program or plan
- 8 that provides greater paid sick leave or other leave rights
- 9 to covered employees or individuals than the rights estab-
- 10 lished under this Act.
- 11 (b) Less Protective.—The rights established for
- 12 covered employees under this Act shall not be diminished
- 13 by any contract, collective bargaining agreement, or any
- 14 employment benefit program or plan.

15 SEC. 11. ENCOURAGEMENT OF MORE GENEROUS LEAVE

- 16 **POLICIES.**
- 17 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to discourage
- 18 covered employers from adopting or retaining leave poli-
- 19 cies more generous than policies that comply with the re-
- 20 quirements of this Act.
- 21 SEC. 12. REGULATIONS.
- 22 (a) In General.—Not later than 15 days after the
- 23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe
- 24 such interim final regulations as are necessary to carry
- 25 out this Act with respect to covered employees described

- 1 in clause (i) or (ii) of section 4(3)(B) and other individuals
- 2 affected by covered employers described in subclause (I)
- 3 or (II) of section 4(4)(A)(i).
- 4 (b) Employees Covered by Congressional Ac-
- 5 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—
- 6 (1) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 30 days after
- 7 the date of enactment of this Act, each congressional
- 8 regulating authority shall prescribe such interim
- 9 final regulations as are necessary to carry out this
- 10 Act with respect to covered employees described in
- section 4(3)(B)(iii) and under the regulating
- authority's jurisdiction and other individuals affected
- by covered employers described in section
- 14 4(4)(A)(i)(III) and under the regulating authority's
- jurisdiction.
- 16 (2) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations
- prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be the same as
- substantive regulations promulgated by the Sec-
- retary to carry out this Act except insofar as the
- 20 congressional regulating authority may determine,
- for good cause shown and stated together with the
- regulations prescribed under paragraph (1), that a
- 23 modification of such regulations would be more ef-
- fective for the implementation of the rights and pro-
- tections involved under this section.

1	(3) Congressional regulating author-
2	ITY.—The term "congressional regulating authority"
3	means—
4	(A) the Committee on Rules of the House
5	of Representatives, with respect to a covered
6	employee described in paragraph (7) of section
7	101 of the Congressional Accountability Act of
8	1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301) and the covered employer
9	of that employee;
10	(B) the Committee on Rules of the Senate,
11	with respect to a covered employee described in
12	paragraph (8) of that section and the covered
13	employer of that employee; and
14	(C) the head of a covered employer de-
15	scribed in paragraph (9)(D) of that section,
16	with respect to a corresponding covered em-
17	ployee described in any of subparagraphs (C)
18	through (I) of paragraph (3) of that section
19	and the covered employer.
20	(c) Employees Covered by Chapter 5 of Title
21	3, United States Code.—
22	(1) Authority.—Not later than 30 days after
23	the date of enactment of this Act, the President (or
24	the designee of the President) shall prescribe such
25	interim final regulations as are necessary to carry

out this Act with respect to covered employees described in section 4(3)(B)(iv) and other individuals affected by covered employers described in section

4(4)(A)(i)(IV).

- (2) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations 6 prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be the same as 7 substantive regulations promulgated by the Sec-8 retary to carry out this Act except insofar as the 9 President (or designee) may determine, for good 10 cause shown and stated together with the regula-11 tions prescribed under paragraph (1), that a modi-12 fication of such regulations would be more effective 13 for the implementation of the rights and protections 14 involved under this section.
- (d) Employees Covered by Section 717 of theCivil Rights Act of 1964.—
- 17 (1) Authority.—Except as provided in para-18 graph (2), not later than 30 days after the date of 19 enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of 20 Personnel Management shall prescribe such interim 21 final regulations as are necessary to carry out this 22 Act with respect to covered employees described in 23 section 4(3)(B)(v) and other individuals affected by 24 covered employers described in section 4(4)(A)(i)(V).

- (2) Government accountability office; Library of Congress; Government Printing office.—The Comptroller General of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and the Public Printer shall prescribe the interim final regulations with respect to covered employees of the Government Accountability Office, the Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office, respectively, and other individuals affected by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and the Public Printer, respectively.
 - (3) AGENCY REGULATIONS.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Secretary to carry out this Act except insofar as the Director, Comptroller General of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, or the Public Printer may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) or (2), that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections involved under this section.

1 SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES.

- 2 (a) Effective Date.—This Act (other than section
- 3 12) shall take effect—
- 4 (1) with respect to covered employees described
- 5 in clause (i) or (ii) of section 4(3)(B), and their cov-
- 6 ered employers, 15 days after the date of enactment
- 7 of this Act; and
- 8 (2) except as provided in paragraph (1), 30
- 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
- 10 (b) TERMINATION.—This Act shall terminate 2 years
- 11 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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