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The Time to Care Coalition Applauds Jersey City on Passing Earned Sick Days.

Adding to the growing number of cities and states that ensure working people are able to take time off when they are sick, the Jersey City Council voted 7-1 to pass the Earned Sick Time Ordinance Wednesday evening. Jersey City becomes the sixth city in the country to adopt such a law. Over 30,000 private sector Jersey City workers, previously unprotected, will now be able to take sick days without the fear of job loss.

The Earned Sick Day Ordinance will go into effect 120 days from its passage, on January 25, 2014. After that date, employees will begin to accrue earned sick days on their first day of employment and are entitled to use the accrued time on the 90th calendar day of employment.

The Ordinance, championed by Mayor Steven M. Fulop, will allow all private sector workers to earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 5 days per year. Workers in establishments with 10 or more employees, including franchises, will receive job-protected, paid sick time; workers in establishments with fewer than 10 employees will receive job-protected, unpaid sick time.

By passing this bill into law, Jersey City Council joins lawmakers around the country that are supporting earned sick days as a policy that strengthens the economy by keeping people in their jobs. Portland and New York City passed earned sick days legislation earlier this year. Washington D.C., Seattle, San Francisco, and Connecticut have all successfully implemented paid sick day policies. Studies done in both [San Francisco](#) and [Seattle](#) have shown that paid sick days standards had none of the negative impacts frequently predicted by the business lobby. In fact, small business owners in both cities have actually reported positive job growth with easier implementation than anticipated.

The Jersey City Council's action adds to the growing support for a statewide earned sick days standard for New Jersey. Recently, more than 200 New Jersey women leaders [pledged](#) their support for earned sick days. The New Jersey Time to Care Coalition agrees with Mayor Fulop, who previously stated that Jersey City passing its ordinance would be significant for the advancement of a state earned sick day policy. "If it works in a city the size of Jersey City...when you see the ground swell of support, it sends a strong message in Jersey City and beyond."

The [New Jersey Time to Care Coalition](#) will continue to raise awareness of the need for an earned sick days policy in all communities and with our state lawmakers. We thank Mayor Steven Fulop and commend his leadership in fighting to ensure that Jersey City's working families will be guaranteed a basic standard of earned sick days.

New Jersey Time to Care Coalition is a broad-based group of community, advocacy, union, religious, research, and academic organizations working to support policies that strengthen communities by ensuring that working families can balance their responsibilities at home and on the job.