



Effective Messaging/ Talking Points

As inflation skyrockets at 20%¹ and with an almost 25% increase in the price of food since 2021², families are struggling to make ends meet. Since nearly 40% of Americans are unable to afford an unexpected \$400 expense, a new baby could be a financial catastrophe.

What if all families could welcome a newborn or adopted child by spending the first few months together bonding as a family? What kind of impact could that have on their future?

AS THE FACTS SHOW, THERE IS A SERIOUS NEED FOR PAID FAMILY LEAVE IN AMERICA:

- According to one estimate, a shocking 23% of all mothers go back to work within two weeks of giving birth.
- Only 23% of workers (9% of low-wage workers) have access to paid family leave after the birth or adoption of a child.
- 64% of households with children have both parents working and 40% of babies are born to unwed mothers.

PAID FAMILY LEAVE MEETS OUR NEED FOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Paid family leave is proven to reduce reliance on public assistance such as food stamps and keeps new parents connected to the workplace.

THE BABY BENEFITS IN SO MANY WAYS:

- Parents with access to paid leave are able to spend more time bonding with their children, resulting in a wide range of benefits.
- Infants with increased activity of higher-frequency brain waves were 7.39 times more likely to have mothers with paid leave.
- Studies show that early bonding is crucial for the long-term mental health and resilience of children.
- 10 weeks of paid maternal leave was associated with a 10% lower infant mortality rate.

MOTHERS AND FATHERS BENEFIT AS WELL:

- Women with at least 12 weeks of paid leave reported fewer depressive symptoms and better mental and physical health.
- Fathers with at least 12 weeks of paid leave reported being more involved in childrearing later.

In this post Dobbs environment, supporting families after the birth or adoption of a child is smart pro-family economic policy.

1 <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/11/economy/biden-inflation-plan/index.html>

2 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/02/02/grocery-price-inflation-biden/>