



# WHAT CONSERVATIVE LEADERS ARE SAYING

## *In Support of Paid Family Leave*

“American families are the heart, soul, and backbone of our nation. Strong and loving families build up our neighborhoods, sustain our communities, invigorate our cities, pass down our values, and make a brighter future for every citizen...It’s time to pass Paid Family Leave...”

— [President Trump: White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave](#) (President Trump has mentioned his support for paid family leave in every joint address to Congress since taking office in 2017.)

“Congress is considering what should be a non-partisan Paid Family Leave bill that would be of great help to families and a genuine recognition that the next generation needs their parents in the earliest months of birth or adoption, and the parents need to be able to focus on that new family member to bond with the child, develop healthy routines, and take care of the myriad of responsibilities that come with an addition to the family. Paid Family Leave is not a government “give-away” but simply affirms that the stress of being a new parent is a burden for the employer as well as the employee. We should honor and reward those who are creating and “training our replacements” and the PFL is an important part of that.”

— [Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas](#)

“Republicans need to roll up their sleeves, reach across the aisle, and get a new federal paid leave policy enacted. Paid parental leave is good policy and good politics.”

— [Rick Santorum, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania](#)

“Our economic policies have left young, working families behind at a time when our marriage and childbirth rates are falling. It is time to realign our economic policies in support of American families...” — [Senator Marco Rubio \(R-FL\)](#) introducing his New Parents Act legislation The problems stemming from financial insecurity around having kids, such as increased debt, welfare receipt, reduced birth weight and negative cognitive outcomes for children and increased family instability are increasingly concentrated among middle- and working-class moms and dads — the backbone of our country...It makes it harder for young Americans to start families and weakens the family — the bedrock institution of our society.”

— [Senator Marco Rubio \(R-Florida\), USA Today](#)

“I am leading efforts to create a policy that gives parents the flexibility to pursue a career and raise a family. This policy must be fiscally sustainable and not bury taxpayers in even more red ink. We will find a bipartisan solution that empowers families and business owners to succeed.”

— [Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D., \(R-Louisiana\)](#)

“There is no bigger kitchen table issue than a mother and a father being able to care for their newborn. In many cases, the first year of life is the most expensive for a family. This legislation addresses this, focuses resources, and eases financial strain to provide a longer bonding period for the family. As a doctor, I know that if a mom and dad are able to have a deeper connection with their child at birth, it’s better for the health of the baby and the mother. We don’t raise taxes, affect Social Security, and there are no mandates on either the family or the employer. This is a common ground solution that can pass Congress and become law.”

— Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D., (R-Louisiana)

“Developing solutions to help new parents and working families thrive in this modern workforce is necessary for the continued economic success of our nation and the well-being of the next generation of Americans.

— Representative Elise Stefanik (R, New York)

“It’s past time we modernize our family leave policies to reflect the evolving needs of today’s workforce and to reduce the barriers that pose challenges for parents balancing family and work... Our proposal is a path forward for a budget-neutral paid leave option that gives parents greater flexibility without imposing a new government entitlement or mandate.”

— Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), on the introduction of The Cradle Act

“Families are the bedrock of our society. If young people can’t afford to marry and start a family, then the American dream literally has no future.”

— Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah)

“It’s a practical, conservative solution for America’s families. It’s a smart, policy that enables families to make their own financial planning decisions.”

— Representative Ann Wagner (R-Missouri)

“We are here to come to some sort of bipartisan solution, and for once, get this done.”

— Representative Stephanie Bice (R-Oklahoma)

“We as a conference have talked a lot about pro-family initiatives and supporting families, and this is one of the ways we can do that. The time is now – thirty years is too long.”

— Representative Stephanie Bice (R-Oklahoma)

“Families are forced to choose between their financial well-being and the well-being of their child,” Crenshaw wrote in a tweet. “That’s wrong. Let’s fix it.”

— Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas)

“Strong families are the building blocks of society. Every economic policy we promote should be centered around encouraging people to get married and have as many kids as they want to have. That’s why we support paid family leave — we believe we should do everything we can to prevent career commitments and financial constraints from limiting the growth of families.”

— Terry Schilling, President of American Principles Project

“As an employer of more than 90 employees, all within child-bearing age, this plan would help me as well as help my employees prepare for the births of their own children.”

— Kristen Hawkins, President of Students for Life

“Protecting American parents at work is protecting the families they nurture. This includes finding a politically viable paid family leave policy, as well as a range of other labor and workplace reforms that would protect parents. Fewer than one in five American workers have access to paid family leave after the birth or adoption of a child, and the

number drops below one in 10 for low-wage workers. That is despite research showing that mothers and children are vastly better off with paid leave available to them in some way, both in simple physical terms and in less immediately tangible long-term emotional and psychological terms. Fewer babies die, fewer mothers suffer depression and children even perform better in school as teenagers.”

– Timothy R. Head, Executive Director of Faith & Freedom Coalition

“Babies need to bond with their parents, especially their mothers. To facilitate this bonding, Congress should pass legislation giving mothers and fathers paid parental leave to be at home with their infants in the first few weeks of their child’s life. Given the physical demands of pregnancy, this leave should be especially generous for mothers.”

– Brad Wilcox, Future of Freedom Fellow, Institute for Family Studies

“In their work, all policymakers should be keeping the needs of families first and foremost. A sound paid leave approach can provide support to parents, especially those welcoming a new life, and recognize that strong families are the cornerstone of a healthy society.”

–Patrick T. Brown, Fellow at Ethics and Public Policy Center

“Family is one of the core pillars of the Hispanic community. Paid Family Leave prioritizes and strengthens the critical bonds that mothers and fathers need with their children as well as helps make family formation more affordable and stable.”

–Samuel Rodriguez, President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

“It should be the birthright of all American children — whether planned or unplanned, born into a high- or low-income household — to spend their first weeks and months of life with their mother and father. That’s currently out of reach for far too many families because they lack job protection and/or access to paid leave. If changing this isn’t the embodiment of family values for conservatives in politics, I’m not sure what is.”

– Abby McCloskey, Founder of McCoskey Policy LLC

“In their work, all policymakers should be keeping the needs of families first and foremost. A sound paid leave approach can provide support to parents, especially those welcoming a new life, and recognize that strong families are the cornerstone of a healthy society.”

–Nadine Maenza, Senior Advisor at Patriot Voices

“Hispanic communities stand with Biblical values that promote faith and family. We need policies like paid family leave that reflect and honor our community and values.”

– Carlos Duran, President of the National Hispanic Pastors Alliance

“Paid Family Leave is an excellent idea that proposes providing wages to individuals when they need to temporarily take leave from work to care for family members. This would empower people to attend to personal needs or family obligations without compromising their financial stability. This is precisely the type of support we give our members in Washington, DC and it is only fair that we offer the same to hard-working Americans in this nation!”

–Tony Lowden, Pastor of Jabez Ministries