



20 Virginians Share

Their Paid Leave Stories

The Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy has launched our July Storybook. Every month, Va-CFFE publishes stories of working families, small business owners, healthcare providers & patient advocates from every corner of the Commonwealth, highlighting the need for paid family and medical leave in Virginia.

Resources

- [*White House Proposes \\$1.8 Trillion Plan For Children And Families*](#), NPR
- [*Your guide to paid leave in the U.S.*](#), Evoke
- [*Paid Sick Days & Paid Family and Medical Leave: A National Partnership for Women & Families Resource*](#), National Partnership for Women & Families
- [*'Men have done much better,' Biden's Commerce Secretary says as the share of women in the workforce hits a 30-year low*](#), Business Insider
- [*Paid Leave Is Essential for Businesses and Key to Building a More Equitable, Sustainable Economy*](#), Times Up
- [*Called to Care: A Racially Just Recovery Demands Paid Family and Medical Leave*](#), National Partnership for Women & Families
- [*Child Care in Crisis: Can Biden's Plan Save It?*](#), New York Times
- [*COVID-19 Exposed the Faults in America's Elder Care System. This Is Our Best Shot to Fix Them*](#), Time

Talking points

- We should all be there for our families when they need us most. But right now, too many Virginians worry about balancing work and family responsibilities when illness strikes. **Currently, 55 percent of working adults in Virginia are either not eligible for or can't afford to take even unpaid leave.** Paid family and medical leave would ensure that hardworking Virginians can take more than a few days away from work to care for themselves or a loved one when serious illness strikes or to welcome a new child.
- People of color have been hardest hit by both the pandemic and its economic effects. Gaps in access to job-protected **paid family and medical leave** and a livable wage mean people of color face greater hardships when health and family care needs arise.
- **Paid family and medical leave** is a cost-effective tool for public health and economic recovery and we can't afford not to act.

- Thousands of Virginians are forced to choose between staying in the workforce and ensuring their kids are cared for. By improving access to **quality, affordable childcare** we can ensure families have the tools they need to succeed at work while helping their kids thrive.
- Seniors and people with disabilities need access to **affordable, reliable long-term care** that centers the needs of patients without bankrupting families. This means investing in building a long-term care infrastructure that works for families and valuing the hard work of professional caregivers.

Link to Storybook

<https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>

Link to Graphics

<https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK-Graphics>

Hashtags

#AmericanFamiliesPlan	#CareEconomy	#CareCantWait	#ChildCare
#CareIsInfrastructure	#CareIsEssential	#PaidLeaveForAll	#PaidLeave
#LongTermCare	#PaidSickDays	#FamilyFriendlyVA	

Sample Tweets

- The @USSenate is actively considering the #AmericanFamiliesPlan, which includes comprehensive #PaidLeave. Now is the time to uplift the needs of families. @FamilyEconomyVA's just published 20 more stories from VA families, detailing why #CareCantWait:
<https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- The pandemic proved that legislators can no longer afford to *not* support #PaidLeave; #PaidSickDays; affordable #childcare & #LongTermCare – all included in the #AmericanFamiliesPlan. @FamilyEconomyVA's latest storybook demonstrates that #CareIsEssential
<https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- Families shouldn't have to choose between being there for their loved ones & paying the bills. @FamilyEconomyVA's latest storybook gives a voice to Virginian families, demonstrating what a lifesaver universal #PaidLeave would be. <https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- The #AmericanFamiliesPlan includes access to:
 - ✓ #PaidLeave
 - ✓ Affordable, quality #ChildCare
 - ✓ Affordable, quality #LongTermCare
 - ✓ #PaidSickDays

@FamilyEconomyVA's July storybook illustrates how the struggles families face could be eased by a #CareEconomy
<https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>

Sample Facebook Posts

- With the U.S. Senate back in session and actively considering the path forward for the American Families Plan – which includes comprehensive paid family and medical leave – @familyfriendlyeconomyva is amplifying the voices of Virginia families who know all too well how badly paid leave is needed. Read through their latest storybook here: <https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- The pandemic proved that legislators can no longer afford to *not* support a care economy – universal paid leave, paid sick days, access to affordable childcare and long term care. @familyfriendlyeconomyva's latest storybook demonstrates that our ability to contribute to the economy is directly related to our ability to care for our families: <https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- Families shouldn't have to choose between being there for their loved ones & paying the bills. @familyfriendlyeconomyva's latest storybook gives a voice to families across the Commonwealth, demonstrating what a lifesaver #PaidLeave would be. <https://bit.ly/VA-CFFE-July-Storybook-TK>
- The American Families Plan includes access to:
 - ✓ Paid leave
 - ✓ Affordable, quality child care
 - ✓ Affordable, quality, long term care
 - ✓ Paid sick days

@familyfriendlyeconomyva's July storybook illustrates how the struggles families face could be eased by a care economy.
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This is the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy's fourth storybook. The April storybook is available [here](#); the May storybook is available [here](#); the June storybook is available [here](#).

About the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy

The Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy (VA CFFE), which launched in 2017, is a grassroots effort dedicated to advancing smart policies that invest in our families and make communities stronger. Virginia CFFE and its 35,000 supporters recognize that while families are working harder than ever, wages have not kept up with rising costs. With family budgets stretched thin, the answer for most Virginians is more work and less time to invest in ourselves and the people we love. When hardworking families are able to provide for themselves, they are more likely to stay in the workforce, are more productive in their jobs and stay in their jobs longer.