

I would like to add my support for paid maternity leave. It is vital to provide parents with the support that helps in this most vital time in the first 6 - 12 months of a child's life.

I have worked in the early childhood field for many years and watched mothers grieving as they drop their baby at a child care location (whether long day care or family day care) - sometimes the infant was only 6 weeks old.

I would hope that granting paid maternity leave does not add to the burden that many women already experience in loss of security, tenure, seniority, career path etc. While professional women may have a greater chance of taking up their interrupted career again many women in low paid positions have found it very difficult returning to the paid work force.

A friend who lives in Finland has taken two years off from her position as a lawyer for a large commercial business, after the birth of her child - she has been able to do this thanks to a supportive, flexible paid maternity allowance. Her taxes contribute to the scheme, her employer contributes as do the govt while she is on paid maternity leave. Finland has a long history of women in the workforce and supportive paid maternity leave options.