



Dear Vermont Lawmakers,

We represent thousands of union members across Vermont industries and towns, and write in support of strong paid family and medical leave legislation.

We are experiencing a caregiving crisis: many people in Vermont can't afford to be with their families in the moments that matter most. At some point in our lives, nearly all of us will need to take time away from work to recover from a serious illness, welcome a new child, or care for or grieve the loss of a close loved one.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) has proven to be a successful workplace protection in which workers have access to unpaid job-protected leave. FMLA is not without shortcomings. Many small employers are exempt, and taking time off without getting paid simply isn't an option for most people. H.66, a House-passed paid family and medical leave bill, is the unfinished business of FMLA. No one should have to choose between their paycheck or being with their families during the times that matter most. We must do better.

Our members work tirelessly within workplaces and our unions to ensure economic stability for workers and their families. By passing paid leave, Vermont will make a tectonic shift to support a more equitable future where workers can prosper and lead healthier and happier lives. It raises standards for all workers, including workers with disabilities, workers of color, and women, union members or not.

To support working people, who are the backbone of our state, we must pass a strong paid family and medical leave program. Please join us in calling for passage of H.66 this legislative session.

In solidarity,

**AFSCME 1343**

AFSCME 1343 represents hundreds of members working at municipalities and non-profits across Chittenden County.

**American Federation of Teachers - Vermont (AFT-VT)**

AFT-VT represents more than 9,000 higher education and health care professionals, and is committed to working with students, patients, and our neighbors to organize for a better Vermont.

**Brattleboro Federation of Nurses (AFT-VT)**

BFN Local represents nearly 300 Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses at the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

**Committee on Residents and Interns (CIR-SEIU)**

CIR-SEIU represents 350 resident doctors at the University of Vermont Medical Center and is an active local union affiliated with the national SEIU Healthcare Division.

**Community Health United (CHU-AFT)**

CHU-AFT represents 260 Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Behavioral Health / Social Work Staff, Registered Nurses, and support staff from across nine practices in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

**Hunger Mountain Coop (Local 255), United Electrical Workers of America (UE)**

UE Local 255 represents over 100 members working at Hunger Mountain Coop in Montpelier.

**Planned Parenthood United (AFT-VT)**

PPNNE-United represents nearly 200 health care workers providing reproductive and gender-affirming care across Vermont and New Hampshire.

**Professional Firefighters of Vermont (PFFV)**

PFFV, with 285 members, are dedicated to providing services and representation to paid professional firefighters, EMS personnel, and retirees in Vermont.

**Vermont NEA (VT-NEA)**

VT-NEA is the union of Vermont educators, 13,000 professionals who teach the state's children every day.

**Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA)**

VSEA represents nearly 6,000 public sector workers in Vermont. VSEA members do the difficult labor that keeps Vermont's nationally recognized public services thriving.

**Vermont State Labor Council AFL-CIO**

A local labor council representing over 10,000 members ranging from the building trades, municipal workers, retail workers, and more.

**United Academics (AFT-VT)**

United Academics is the union of full- and part-time faculty at the University of Vermont, representing more than 800 faculty from departments and colleges across the campus.

**United Nurses and Allied Professionals (UNAP), Local 5109**

UNAP Local 5109 represents 100 Registered Nurses at Copley Hospital in Lamoille County.