



For Immediate Release

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NEW POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT EXPANDING CURRENT PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICIES FOR COVID-19

Eighty percent of Americans favor expanding paid sick and family leave to workers in businesses with 500 or more employees

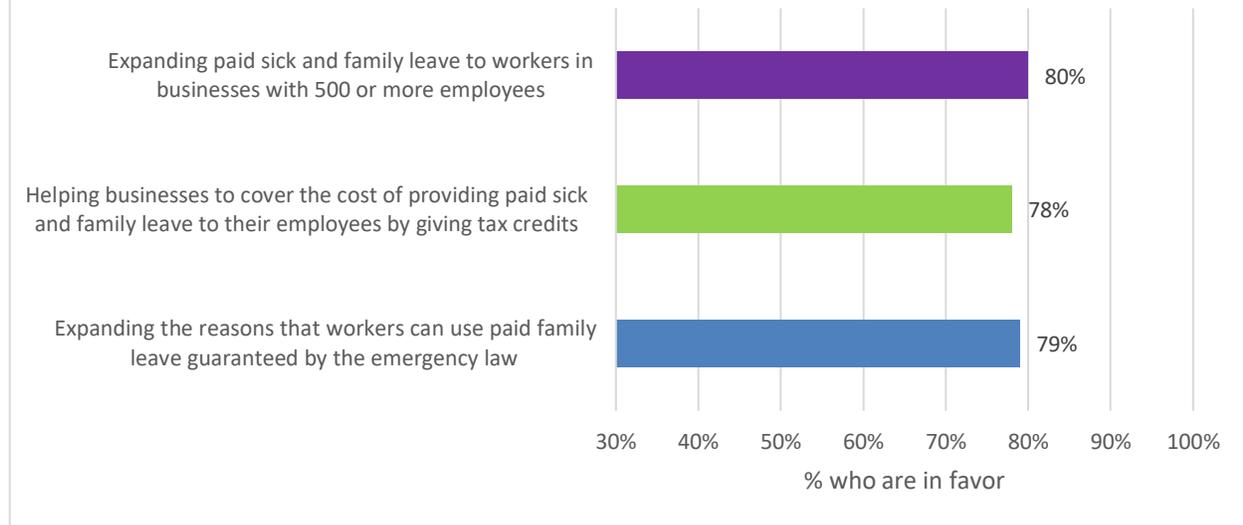
NEW YORK—A groundbreaking “[Back-to-Normal Barometer](#)” survey for the first time finds that an overwhelmingly majority of Americans favor expanding current paid sick and family leave policies in a number of ways, including to apply to businesses with 500 or more employees, to expand the allowable reasons for workers to use emergency paid family leave policy, and to help businesses cover the costs via tax credits, regardless of the size of the employer.

Additionally, the survey unearthed tremendous support for a number of steps employers have already taken and are actively considering as cases continue to rise throughout the U.S., including providing 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, reducing employees hours upon their request, setting up a vacation bank so employees can donate vacation hours, assisting with child and eldercare, and furloughing employees so they can collect unemployment insurance.

“There are robust levels of support for all of these policies. Both parties in Congress, as well as the Trump Administration and the Biden campaign, no doubt are taking note,” said Rich Thau, President of [Engagious](#), one of the three firms—along with the [Sports and Leisure Research Group](#) and [ROKK Solutions](#)—that conducted the survey.

The survey found 80% of Americans support expanding paid sick and family leave to include businesses with 500 or more employees, and 79% support expanding the criteria for a worker to qualify for paid sick and family leave, so that personal and family medical and care needs are included. Current law only provides extended paid leave for parents caring for a child whose school or child care center is closed due to COVID-19. Additionally, 78% of Americans favor helping businesses cover the costs of providing federally-mandated paid sick and family leave via tax credits.

Strong Support for Expanding Paid Sick Leave

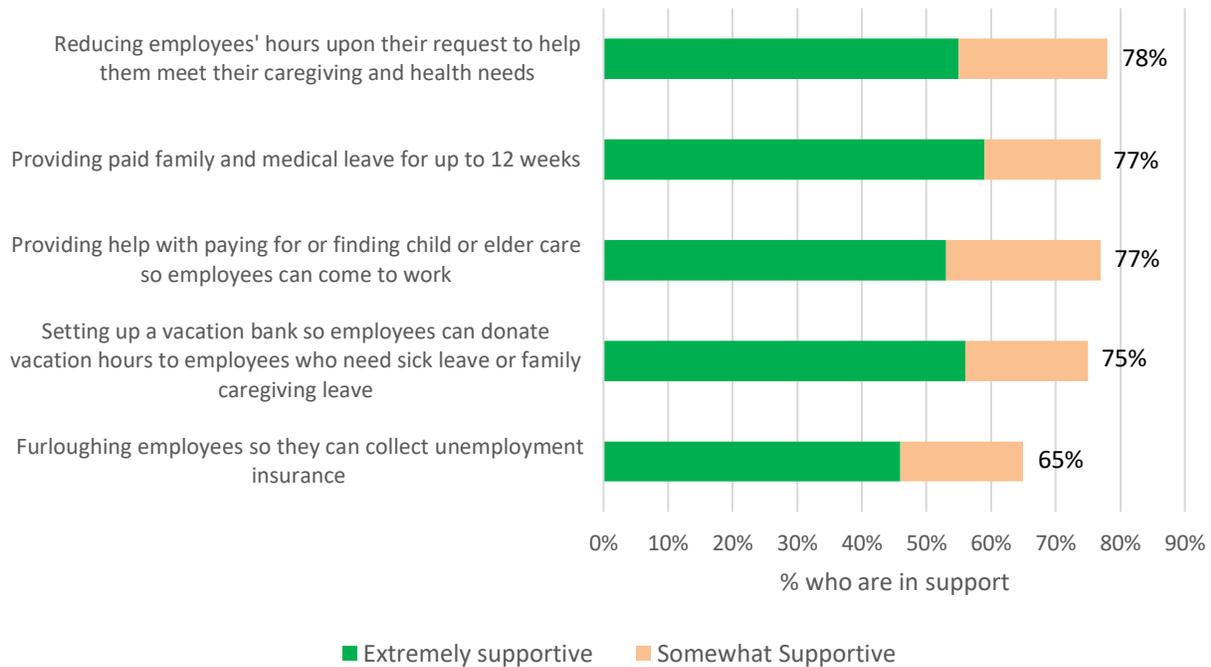


“These findings show Americans overwhelmingly support robust financial assistance for companies and workers during this pandemic, regardless of the size of the company in question.” Ron Bonjean, Partner at ROKK Solutions.

To meet the needs of employers and employees during the pandemic, several actions related to family and medical leave have been considered and many have garnered the support of the American public.

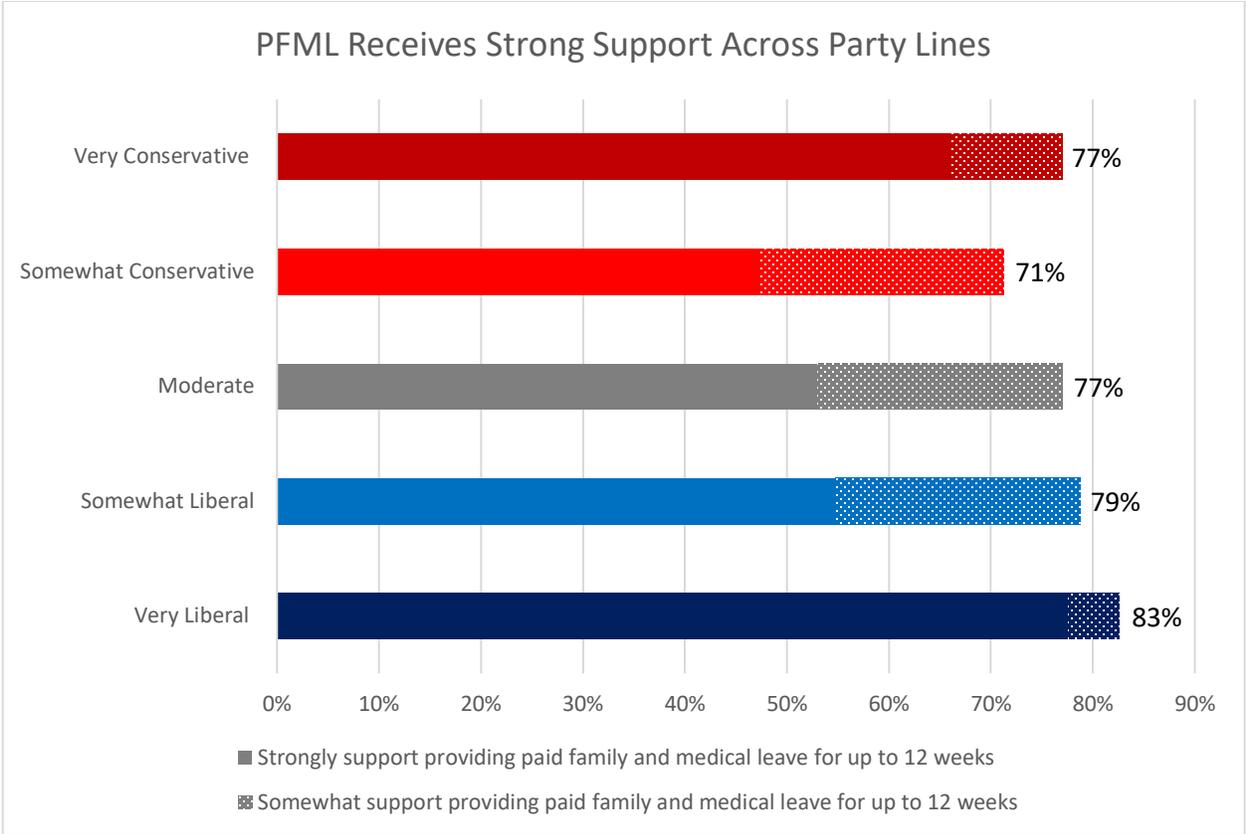
- 78% of Americans support reducing an employees’ hours upon their request to help them meet their caregiving and health needs (55% strongly support)
- 77% support providing paid family and medical leave for up to twelve weeks (59% strongly support)
- 75% support setting up a vacation bank so employees can donate vacation hours to employees with caregiving and health needs (56% strongly support)
- 77% support providing help with paying for or finding child or elder care so employees can come to work (53% strongly support)
- 65% support furloughing employees so they can collect unemployment insurance (46% strongly support)

Strong Support of Potential Solutions



“Consistently in our Barometer research, we’ve seen Americans’ concerns about societal issues supersede personal concerns.” said Jon Last, President of the Sports and Leisure Research Group, and a former national president of the Insights Association (MRA) and Marketing Research Institute International. “These latest findings affirm that support when it applies to a workforce that has been battered and disrupted by the impact of pandemic shutdowns.”

One potential solution, expanding paid family and medical leave to up to 12 weeks, has significant bipartisan support. The majority of liberals, moderates, and conservatives support providing paid family and medical leave for up to 12 weeks. 66% of self-identified “very conservative” Americans **strongly support** the policy, while 78% of “very liberal” Americans **strongly support** the policy.



This research comes as congressional policymakers are discussing additional coronavirus response and recovery legislation, including possibly extending and expanding the guarantee of paid sick time and paid family leave among other provisions. The current law, passed in March in response to the COVID-19 emergency, requires most businesses with fewer than 500 employees to provide employees with paid sick time for COVID-19 related quarantine, self-isolation or diagnosis and also paid time off to care for another individual or for a child whose school or child care provider is closed; up to 10 paid sick days and 10 weeks of paid family leave for parents caring for children is available through the end of 2020. Businesses are reimbursed by the federal government for the costs of these paid leave provisions to help ensure that both businesses and workers get the help they need.

The margin of error on the June 17, 2020 online survey of 598 Americans is +/-4.01% at the 95% confidence interval.

Sports and Leisure Research Group is a market research firm specializing in the sports, travel, and leisure sectors, based in White Plains, NY. Engagious is a bicoastal research firm specializing in corporate and public policy message testing and message refinement. ROKK Solutions is a Washington, DC-based bipartisan public affairs firm specializing in strategic communications, media engagement, digital and social strategy, message amplification and crisis management.