



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Forty-Thousand Milwaukeeans Call for Right to Paid Sick Time**

First Time in Over a Decade, Signatures to Put Binding Resolution on Ballot

On Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon, 9to5 Milwaukee and healthy kids will deliver their signatures to put paid sick days on the ballot. The 60-day signature drive was a huge coalition effort of faith, labor, educational and health groups. The delivery will be made to the Milwaukee City Clerk Office, and will complete the first step in a process for the ballot initiative.

“We brought this issue to Milwaukeeans to decide,” said 9to5’s WI Director, Amy Stear. “This is the first time in over a decade that any community group has used the ballot initiative process for a binding resolution. No one should be forced to choose between the family they love and the job they need. Nearly half of the nation’s workforce doesn’t have paid sick time. Over 35,000 Milwaukeeans are calling for a minimum right to paid sick time and have signed petitions. This is good for our city’s public health, as workers and their families can recover from flu and other contagions,” said Amy Stear.

The petition has been signed by Rep. Gwen Moore and other prominent Milwaukeeans. The coalition will be represented by speakers in the City Hall Rotunda including Black Health Coalition President Dr. Pat McManus, MPS Principal Rita Tenorio, Dennis Oulahan, MTEA, Sheila Cochran, AFL-CIO, Richard Riley, ATU President, Elaine Maly, Women’s Fund, and 9to5 volunteers.

After validation of signatures, the Common Council will have 30 days to pass it outright or put it on the ballot. The press event will include copies of the ordinance as well as knowledgeable speakers from various aspects of our community.

Similar legislation has been passed in San Francisco and Washington DC. Efforts to gain paid sick days are taking place in over a dozen places across the nation. 9to5 is part of these efforts in California’s state-wide bill, where legislation has passed the State Assembly. Another ballot initiative is moving statewide in Ohio, as well.

See more online: [www.9to5.org/sickdays](http://www.9to5.org/sickdays) A map of national activities: [www.paidicksickdays.org](http://www.paidicksickdays.org)

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