

Three years ago I became seriously ill and bedridden for four months. Because my husband has an excellent medical-leave benefit from his work, he was able to use that to stay home and care for me without losing pay, Because this program was in place when he started working there, and the benefits accrued over time (rather than annually being taken away) my husband's use of his benefits were available without question or quibbling or threat. In fact, because it was already in the budget, the question of cost never came up for him. Instead his coworkers and boss were supportive and caring - not suspicious or envying. Just to say - this is a very successful and growing business. It has not suffered because of this benefit. Instead, workers are more loyal and happy and flexible. It is a good place to work.

THAT is the way things should be for ALL Vermonters; caring, unifying, and friendly.

If my husband had not had that benefit, what would have happened to me? - Probably weeks in a nursing home or hospital (and where would that money come from? Would we lose our half-paid for little house? and then what? - possibly a longer and more severe illness and certainly a lot more misery and upset in the entire family, and where would we live?

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