

To: Chair Sirotkin and the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs  
From: Caleb Magoon, Owner of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports in Waterbury

As a Vermonter, a father and a small business owner I fully support the legislation creating a paid family leave mechanism for Vermont families.

As a new father, I have discovered how vital and important this benefit is for young families. It's with great regret that I reflect on missing out on the opportunity to spend time with my infant son at this significant time of his life.

As a business owner, this is a valuable benefit that few small businesses have the means to provide. Yet, a system such as presented allows for employees to have the benefit for a very modest cost to the employers. Initiatives like this that provide a significant benefit to the employee for only a minimal cost to both employee and employer are the sort of benefits we should be providing.

Although I wholeheartedly support this legislation, I do so with one strong caveat. The exclusion of self employed people from access to the benefit is not only unfair but to the detriment of our businesses. A mechanism for self-employed individuals to pay in to the system and all be allowed to take advantage of the benefits needs to be included in the legislation.

Business owners have possibly the most difficult time realizing paid leave for themselves. The costs to their businesses, filling in for themselves and also trying to find a way to pay themselves proves to be extremely difficult.

By having access to this benefit, small business owners will be able to take leave themselves without a cost to the business that makes the leave impossible. It is only fair that they too have access to this benefit.

Caleb Magoon  
Owner of Power Play Sports in Morrisville and Waterbury Sports in Waterbury