

**From:** Mary Lamson [mailto:mp.lamson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:36 PM  
**To:** Kayla Dewey  
**Subject:** H.196, Paid Family Leave - Written Testimony

To whom it may concern,

Paid family leave is critical to economic development and the well being of Vermont families. It is imperative to the future of Vermont to attract and retain talented professionals to fill our local labor pool. Paid family leave is a mighty tasty carrot to young families and women of a certain age when considering where to locate.

As a professional, full-time working mother to three children, I can speak first-hand to the burden of unpaid leave-- not only the financial stain of temporarily living off one income but more so to the burden-- the gut retching decision to separate from a newborn baby, to leave that tiny person after just a mere few weeks, for no better reason than to return to work.

Science will support that babies are more likely to thrive when they are able to bond with (i.e. spend the first few months of life with) their mothers. Thriving babies become thriving children who become contributing members of our society, not to mention voters.

Please support H. 196 and make paid family leave a reality for Vermont's working families.

Best,  
Mary Lamson, Middletown Springs  
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