

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan Groups to Legislature: Don't Use Lame Duck To Undo Will of the People

Politicians Should Represent their Constituents, not Do Bidding of Special Interests

LANSING — The United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the Michigan League for Public Policy, the League of Women Voters of Michigan and We the People held a statewide conference call today to warn the Michigan Legislature not to bow to special interests and use the lame duck period to undo citizen-driven initiatives or move bills that undermine the public's voice in government. Majority lawmakers are already signaling that they plan to use the secrecy of lame duck session between Thanksgiving and the New Year to undermine new laws and other policies that enjoy widespread support.

"Michiganders overwhelmingly support measures like paid sick leave that benefit working people and their families," said Kyle DuBuc of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "It's outrageous that anyone in the legislature would consider disregarding not just the will of the citizens, but the needs of nearly 2 million workers, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet."

Earlier this month, Senator Mike Shirkey (R-Jackson) introduced legislation to roll back the initiative requiring employers to provide one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked up to 72 hours a year. More than 380,000 people signed petitions to put this paid sick time policy on the ballot. Polling has consistently shown over 64% of voters—a majority of both Republicans and Democrats—support the policy as written.

Senator Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) introduced a bill to undo the law raising the minimum wage to \$12 per hour, including tipped workers. More than 370,000 people in Michigan signed petitions for that initiative.

Measures like earned paid sick time are policies that make it easier for millions of people in Michigan to work, raise their families and plan for their futures. At a time when the middle class keeps getting squeezed and the gap between the rich and poor continues to widen, these common-sense initiatives are critical to growing an economy that works for everyone.

(More)

“We can’t sit back and allow Lansing politicians to let corporations and special interests write all the rules, making it harder for working people and middle-class families to get ahead,” said Art Reyes of We the People. “Paid sick time and new laws that strengthen our democracy have the strong support of citizens. By moving to gut these measures in a last-minute lame duck session, these politicians are attempting to undermine the will of the people, and we won’t let that stand.”

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