

## Governor on Plan to Create a Statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave Program

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin

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MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today delivered the Democratic Radio Address highlighting his budget initiative, shared last month in his [2023-25 Biennial Budget Message](#), to create a first-of-its-kind Wisconsin Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

[Audio File of Radio Address](#) .

*Hey there, Governor Tony Evers here.*

*I always say that what's best for our kids is what's best for our state—and it's what's best for our families and our workforce, too.*



*I was proud to announce our budget makes major investments in supporting working families so we can bolster our workforce and maintain our economy's momentum—and that includes a comprehensive approach to paid family and medical leave for workers and employers across the state.*

*According to a Marquette Law Poll, 73 percent of Wisconsin voters, including 62 percent of Republicans, support requiring businesses to provide paid leave for new parents.*

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*So, I'm introducing a commonsense plan to ensure all public and most private employees have 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.*

*The weeks after welcoming a baby to the family are critical—not only to have time together but for our kids' future development.*

*And new parents aren't the only ones who can benefit from a paid family leave program that truly meets the needs of our workforce.*

*Too often, folks are taken out of the workforce by unpredictable and untimely family emergencies—whether it's a sick loved one, the unexpected closure of child care, or when a family member is deployed for active duty.*

*So, we're also going to expand eligibility to cover more circumstances so workers can respond and put their family's needs first.*

*We should be able to work together on policies that have broad, bipartisan support—especially if it helps bolster our workforce and do what's best for our kids.*

*So, let's get this done. And I know that together we will.*

*Thank you.*