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April 5, 2011

The Honorable Fiona Ma
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 400 (Ma)

Paid Sick Days Legislation – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Ma:

Thank you for introducing AB400 in the California Assembly. AB 400 is a commonsense policy that promotes health and economic security in California. Family Caregiver Alliance supports this critical legislation which guarantees all California workers the right to earn paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member, or to take leave related to domestic violence or sexual assault.

As you know, nearly 6 million California workers – over 40% of the workforce - have ZERO paid sick days to care for themselves or a sick family member. Too many hardworking Californians are forced to make a difficult choice: lose pay and risk job loss in order to care for their own illness or care for a sick family member. Especially in these tough economic times, paid sick days would provide working families a much needed measure of economic security.

Paid sick days also protect public health. Workers forced to work sick expose their co-workers and the public to infectious diseases. Paid sick days are a practical and cost-effective public health policy to prevent disease, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, care for our children and elders, reduce health disparities, and control health care costs.

Voters agree that paid sick days for all workers is a sound policy for California. In a 2008 Field Research Corporation poll, 73% of California voters supported a law to guarantee that workers receive paid sick days.

We urge all legislators to join you in supporting AB 400.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Kelly,
Executive Director