



Women Employed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2006

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**WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS MEET WITH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO ADVANCE
HEALTHY WORKPLACES AND FAMILIES**

*WORKING WOMEN FOR CHANGE MEMBERS DISCUSS IMPACT OF PAID TIME OFF ON
GOVERNOR'S HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION POLICIES*

Members of Working Women for Change, an initiative of Women Employed and Chicago women business leaders, met with Deputy Governor Bradley Tusk on Thursday to discuss the group's first campaign—to guarantee paid sick days for every Illinois worker through new public policies and voluntary changes in the private sector.

The group of representatives, who are top women executives from Chicago area companies, told Tusk that the success of some of Governor Blagojevich's hallmark initiatives in health care and education depend in part on the availability of paid time off.

"Some of Governor Blagojevich's gold standard healthcare policies like KidCare and FamilyCare have limited impact when parents can't take time off from work to take their

It's up to us.

children or themselves to the doctor” said Bridget Gainer, Director of Government Affairs for Aon Corporation, who has been an executive in the public as well as the private sector.

Working Women for Change members explained that lack of guaranteed paid time off also impacts the Governor’s education initiatives like expansion of state pre-kindergarten. “Being able to take the time to get children the health care they need to succeed in school is an education issue,” explained Gainer.

While middle and upper-income families often have access to paid sick time, lower-wage workers who could benefit from the Governor’s healthcare and education programs typically do not have access to paid time off.

“For two generations women have been leaders in Illinois businesses,” said Gainer. “We know what it takes to rise in business and civic life. We also know that raising children means dealing with unscheduled demands. Many of us are in positions where we can negotiate that balance, but now we must ensure that women at all employment and wage levels have that same opportunity. Paid sick time is a critically important place for us to start.”

“The conversation with Deputy Governor Tusk was an important step in our campaign to guarantee paid sick time to Illinois families,” said Anne Ladky, Women Employed’s Executive Director. “He assured us that he was willing to continue this conversation. In time, with the support of our members, we’ll turn that conversation into action.”

Working Women for Change, an initiative of Women Employed, is an association of corporate women executives and civic leaders committed to creating better working conditions for all women. Women Employed, based in Chicago, is a leading national voice for improving the economic status and working conditions of American women. For more information, visit www.womenemployed.org.

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