Economic Impacts of A Paid Sick Leave Mandate in Allentown Pennsylvania

KEYSTONE RESEARCH CENTER

Nearly 10,000 Allentown Workers Could Gain Paid Sick Leave

On November 3, Allentown residents will vote on a proposal requiring businesses to provide paid sick leave. **If approved, Keystone Research Center estimates that nearly 10,000 workers would gain paid time off to care for themselves or their children when they're sick.** This accounts for about 1 out of every 5 workers in Allentown.

Economic Impacts

Keystone Research Center estimates that newly covered workers would use an average of **19.3 hours**, or fewer than three days, of paid sick leave a year. The estimated gross wage cost to employers is **$5.1 million annually**, or **$523 per newly covered worker**. That equals less than one-tenth of one percent of Allentown's estimated **$7.7 billion annual GDP**, or roughly **7 cents for every $100** of the city's economic output.

Employers may recover part of the cost when fewer people work while sick and when lower turnover reduces hiring costs. Studies of similar laws elsewhere have not found evidence of overall employment declines or more business closures.

Paid Sick Leave Benefits

Workers: Time to recover, see a doctor, or care for a sick family member without losing pay for covered hours.

Employers: Research suggests paid sick leave can mean fewer employees coming to work sick and less illness spreading on the job. In some workplaces, it may also reduce turnover, helping employers avoid productivity losses and replacement costs.

For more information including the methodology for these estimates and details on administrative costs, see "The Economic Impact of Paid Sick Leave in Allentown, Pennsylvania" or by scanning the QR code

Paid sick leave for nearly 10,000 more workers. Estimated employer wage cost: just **$523** per newly covered worker per year.