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Assembly California Legislature



ASH KALRA
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March 18, 2020

Mayor and City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

RE: SUPPORT – Paid Sick Leave Ordinance

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers:

It is with great urgency that I share my support for Councilmembers Esparza, Carrasco and Arenas' Paid Sick Leave Ordinance.

I want to applaud the City Council for taking on this important issue at such a critical time. As we all know, the impacts of COVID-19 are having unprecedented and far-reaching impacts throughout our communities. This action by the City Council today will go a long way to helping assuage workers' fears that they can stay home in order to help mitigate the spread of the Corona Virus and not put at risk their employment. Paid sick leave is central to our efforts to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

Actions such as these are not just a matter of what is right for our economy and its workforce, but it is also a matter of how we provide for the public's health. Being able to stay home and not feel compelled to come to work sick helps keep society healthy, the economy functioning, and our democracy robust.

I am currently authoring AB 3216, which will be amended to expand a number of worker protections and benefits, including expanding access to paid sick leave for all Californians as soon as possible. However, out of an abundance of caution, and due to the size of the Legislature, we took the unprecedented action of temporarily recessing the Legislature to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Until we can act on this AB 3216 at the state level, the actions you take today take on greater urgency and importance.

I commend you all for working quickly on this matter and believe it will help contribute greatly to our efforts at the state level to pass expanded paid sick leave throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ash Kalra.

ASH KALRA