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PHACCS Initiative’s Recommended Policies

Goal 1: Support the Connections Between Health & Learning
1. Universal Pre-Kindergarten
2. School Nutrition Programs

Goal 2: Employ Harm-Reduction Strategies to Prevent Substance Misuse Deaths and Related Diseases
3. Syringe Access Programs

Goal 3: Promote Healthy Behaviors
4. Smoke-Free Environments
5. Tobacco Pricing
6. Alcohol Pricing

Goal 4: Promote Active Living & Connectedness
7. Complete Streets

Goal 5: Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Housing for All
8. Housing Rehabilitation Loan & Grant Programs
9. Rapid Re-Housing

Goal 6: Create Opportunities for Economic Well-Being
10. Earned Income Tax Credit
11. Paid Family Leave
12. Paid Sick Leave
13. Ban the Box (Fair Hiring Protections)
Strong Evidence-Base

Health Benefits
• Increased access to preventive healthcare services
• Decreased rates of flu infections
• Reduced risk of illness
• Decreased spread of infection
• Employees are less likely to delay medical care

Economic Benefits
• Minimal costs to employers
• Costs more to have sick employees at work
• Reduces turnover
• Increased productivity when employees are healthy at work
Social distancing is key to “flattening the curve” and limiting the spread of COVID-19

Daily number of cases

Delay outbreak peak

Reduction in outbreak peak

Health care system capacity

Cases without protective measures

Cases with protective measures

Time since first case

Sources: CDC, Vox
Congress’s three-phase response to the coronavirus crisis

Phase 1
- Initial support and vaccine development
  - H.R. 6074 — Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
    - $8.3 billion in COVID-19 response funding for developing a vaccine and preventing further spread of the virus
    - Became law on 3/6/20

Phase 2
- Paid leave, unemployment and food assistance
  - H.R. 6201 — Families First Coronavirus Response Act
    - $100 billion in worker assistance, including emergency paid sick leave, food assistance, and unemployment payments
    - Became law on 3/18/20

Phase 3
- Major economic stimulus package
  - H.R. 748 CARES Act
    - Major stimulus package (~$2 trillion)
    - Loans and support to major industries, including airlines and small businesses
    - Direct payments to individuals and families
    - Became law on 3/27/20

H.R. 6201 – A Step in the Right Direction But More Work is Needed to Increase Access to Paid Sick Leave

TFAH’s Recommendations (specific to sick leave)
• Require all employers (regardless of size) to allow workers to earn 7 PSD
• Include 14 days of paid sick leave (available immediately) for public health emergencies

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201)
• Establishes only a temporary program (sunsets 12/31/20)
• Exempts employers with > 500 employees
• Exempts healthcare workers
• Allows for employers with < 50 employees to apply for hardship exemption
Only a small number of states mandate paid sick leave.