

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Global Strategy Group & Paid Leave for All Action

**Date:** May 15, 2020

**Re:** New Survey Shows Paid Leave is Winning Issue in Battlegrounds and Candidates Who Oppose Could Be at Risk

When the coronavirus pandemic first hit the United States, more than 32 million Americans did not have access to a single paid sick day. Now, with millions of essential workers putting themselves and their families at risk of infection every day and another 30 million Americans out of work entirely, a recent poll shows that voters in the 42 congressional Frontline districts and 11 Senate battleground states that will decide the November elections consider emergency paid leave a top priority, and will be voting on it come November.

### Battleground voters support paid leave nearly unanimously

**These top defense districts for Democrats and swing Senate states could go either way in November.** In a generic ballot, pitting an unnamed Democrat against an unnamed Republican, Democrats hold a narrow lead across the 42 Frontline districts (49% Dem/44% GOP) and tie for the Senate at 46%. When asked whether they will re-elect or replace their current representative, 24% of Frontline voters and 23% of Senate battleground voters remain “undecided” (these are the undecided voters referenced in tables below).

**Voters in these districts want paid leave. And they want it more than any other relief policy on the table.** Voters in battleground states are looking for relief amid the coronavirus pandemic, and they are willing to take relief in many forms. But voters in Senate battlegrounds are 26 points more likely to strongly support paid leave than they are any other relief policies the Senate might be asked to consider.

% total support (% strong support) for...	Frontline		Senate	
	Overall	Undecided	Overall	Undecided
Providing workers who become sick during the coronavirus pandemic with paid leave	92% (69%)	90% (70%)	94% (67%)	96% (62%)
Extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation	78 (44)	78 (52)	80 (41)	85 (49)
Providing aid to state and local governments that have lost tax revenue during the coronavirus pandemic	76 (40)	82 (41)	80 (38)	81 (36)
Increasing the amount of money that laid-off workers can receive via unemployment compensation	71 (39)	74 (44)	70 (36)	78 (36)
Expanding the Child Tax Credit	77 (38)	84 (47)	74 (32)	80 (32)
Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit	79 (36)	87 (43)	76 (31)	79 (32)

**That’s because paid leave has overwhelming bipartisan support, especially amid the coronavirus pandemic.**

More than four-fifths of voters, including majorities of every party, support paid leave. And those numbers only rise when it comes to providing emergency paid leave during the pandemic.

% total support for...	Overall	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Undecided
<i>In Frontline congressional districts</i>					
Paid leave	86%	97%	86%	74%	86%
Providing workers who become sick during the coronavirus pandemic with paid leave	92	98	90	89	90

<i>In Senate battlegrounds</i>					
Paid leave	85%	96%	83%	76%	91%
Providing workers who become sick during the coronavirus pandemic with paid leave	94	98	93	92	96

**Support for paid leave is so strong that a majority continue to support it, even if they think it means more taxes.** Often, voters support a proposal until they are told – falsely in the case of emergency paid leave – that it could cost them something (especially among swing electorates). Not the case here: Two-thirds of voters in Senate battlegrounds (64%, including 67% of undecideds) and Frontline districts (65%, including 72% of undecided voters) support providing “paid leave for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic funded by increased spending and taxes.”

### Candidates who champion paid leave win, meaning Republicans could be in hot water

**If Democrats frame the election around support for emergency paid leave, especially for essential workers, they win decisively.** Recent polling shows Democrats have been gaining ground in these battlegrounds, but there are even more votes up for grabs when paid leave is at the center of the debate. *Independents swing dramatically toward a Democrat who supports paid leave over a Republican who doesn't. The Democrat's 8-point lead among independents in Frontline districts becomes a 44-point lead and the tie in Senate states becomes a 46-point Democratic advantage.* Even voters who self-identify as Republican move dramatically toward Democrats when it becomes a question of emergency paid leave for essential frontline workers. In Frontline districts, these *moderate Republicans actually prefer a Democrat who supports emergency paid leave by two points over a Republican candidate who doesn't.*

Vote	Frontline					Senate				
	Overall	Ind.	Und.	Non-college white women	Soft GOP	Overall	Ind.	Und.	Non-college white women	Soft GOP
	<i>Net Democrat advantage (Dem – GOP)</i>									
<b>Generic ballot</b> (Democrat v. Republican)	+5	+8	+14	-6	-53	+0	+0	+0	-8	-79
<b>Emergency paid leave for essential frontline workers generic ballot</b> (Democrat who supports emergency paid leave for essential frontline workers v. Republican who opposes)	+30	+44	+48	+30	+2	+32	+46	+32	+36	-14

**Even when Republicans attack Democrats for supporting paid leave, they lose.** Republican candidates who oppose paid leave can try to fight to a draw but they will still lose ground. After voters hear a false attack on a Democrat for supporting paid leave and an attack on a Republican for opposing it, the Democrat gains vote share, going from a tie in the Senate states (46% Democrat/46% Republican) to a five-point lead (47%/42%), and from a five-point lead (49%/44%) to a ten-point lead (50%/40%) in Frontline districts.

### Support for paid leave is here to stay

**A majority support passing permanent paid leave, even after the immediate COVID-19 threat is over.** Sixty-two percent of Senate voters and 59% of Frontline voters (including 68% and 50% of independents, respectively) support extending paid leave to all American workers, permanently.

**And, again, they're willing to pay for it:** 75% of all Frontline voters and 77% of Senate battleground voters said they would contribute money from their own paycheck for a permanent national paid leave policy, including one-third (35% of Senate and 34% of Frontline voters) who would be willing to pay 3 cents or more for every dollar in wages – two to three times what a proposal like the Gillibrand/DeLauro FAMILY Act is estimated to cost by the Social Security Actuaries and Congressional Budget Office. A full 61% of Senate battleground voters and 62% of Frontline voters would pay more than a cent for every dollar in wages.

*Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 1,000 likely voters from 11 Senate battleground states (AZ, CO, GA, IA, KS, ME, MI, MN, MT, NC, TX) and 1,004 likely voters from the 42 congressional Frontline districts as defined by the DCCC between April 30th and May 4th, 2020. The survey, for each population, had a confidence interval of +/-3.1%. All interviews were conducted via web-based panel. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the populations of likely voters are properly represented.*

## Appendix: Statements on Candidates

**False attack on Democrat for supporting paid leave:** The Democratic candidate is another tax and spend liberal who wants to abolish private health insurance and replace our health care system with a one-size-fits-all, government-run health care program that costs American taxpayers \$32 trillion, and force working families to pay thousands more in taxes. And right in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic when Americans were suffering most, they supported increasing taxes to pay for another government mandate, costing American families thousands and putting small businesses at even greater risk of closure.

**Attack on Republican for opposing paid leave:** Even after 40,000 Americans had died from coronavirus and 26 million more found themselves out of work and unable to contribute to our economy, the Republican candidate opposed a plan to ensure that American businesses can keep American workers employed and contributing to the economy with their spending. And the Republican candidate didn't just hurt our chances of economic recovery, by opposing paid leave they made it harder for essential Frontline workers—including grocery store clerks, warehouse workers, and nurses who may be infected by the virus—to stay home and avoid infecting others.