



May 8, 2017

Ms. Ivanka Trump
Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Ms. Trump:

As we approach Mother's Day, I want to share with you what I think would be the perfect Mother's Day present for the federal workforce – your endorsement of bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney in the House of Representatives and a companion bill introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz in the U.S. Senate. It's a modest proposal, given what is now happening with paid parental leave in the private sector. The National Treasury Employees Union, representing more than 150,000 federal employees in 31 different agencies, has worked with these two leaders for several years to achieve final passage of this bill, which provides six weeks of paid leave to all male and female employees of the federal government after the birth, adoption or fostering of a child.

As I'm sure you know, the United States is the only industrialized nation in the world that does not provide paid parental leave. The clear majority of Americans, according to an Associated Press poll last year, support paid parental leave. Many major corporations from American Express to Ikea to Hilton Hotels and smaller companies like Chobani now provide paid parental leave. Companies are doing this because they know that policies like this will attract and retain younger workers. It's a win for businesses, for employees and especially for the children.

NTEU knows that you were the driving force in including maternity leave in the President's campaign platform. We were encouraged by his statement in the State of the Union address when he said, "My administration wants to work with members in both parties. . . to help ensure new parents have paid family leave. . .". As you said yourself during the campaign, "The most important job any woman can have is being a mother and it shouldn't mean taking a pay cut." NTEU agrees that new parents should not lose pay as they welcome a child into their families. This Mother's Day, join with us in asking Congress to pass the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President