

**Disability Rights Legal Center**

**CLRC**

**Cancer Legal Resource Center**

### **U.S. DOL State Paid Leave Fund**

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) and the Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), support the State Paid Leave Fund, which would appropriate \$23 million for grants to assist states in establishing new paid leave programs.

As the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country, the DRLC has worked to implement the civil rights of people with disabilities for over 30 years. The CLRC is dedicated to helping cancer survivors, caregivers, health care professionals, employers and others coping with cancer. While our reach is national, our main office is located in California, a state that has successfully implemented a family leave program that allows individuals to take time off of work to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new child. This program was founded to allow employees to take time off work to care for a loved one, while helping them to avoid a loss of income that may place them in a position of not being able to afford food, housing, or to pay other bills.

Congressional approval of this new U.S. Department of Labor appropriation would fund similar programs in other states that would allow individuals to remain in the workforce, and encourage job retention and financial health for families as they deal with an illness.

The DRLC and CLRC strongly support the State Paid Leave Fund and we encourage Members of Congress to approve this appropriation as part of the FY 2012 U.S. Department of Labor budget.

To access the National Partnership for Women and Families' coalition sign-on letter supporting the Fund, which will be sent to members of Congress, please visit:

[www.nationalpartnership.org/site/PageNavigator/StatePaidLeaveFund.html](http://www.nationalpartnership.org/site/PageNavigator/StatePaidLeaveFund.html)