



stronger
voices
together

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Allegheny County Council
436 Grant St #119,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

July 14, 2026

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Allies for Children, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed Paid Parental Leave initiative in Allegheny County. Our mission is to advocate for policy and practice changes that improve the wellbeing of all children in our region. We believe that providing parents with the financial security and time to bond with their children during the critical first months of life is one of the most effective ways that children, families, and communities can thrive.

Paid leave is a cornerstone of child and family development. Research consistently demonstrates that when parents have access to paid, job-protected leave, infants experience higher rates of vaccination, better health outcomes, and improved cognitive development. Additionally, it significantly reduces postpartum depression and supports stronger family attachment. For the families served by our community, this policy is not merely a workplace benefit—it is a vital public health intervention.

Allies for Children recognizes the challenges this may pose to our region's small businesses, school districts, and non-profit organizations. These sectors are essential partners in our community, providing critical services and jobs, yet they often operate with limited administrative capacity and tight financial margins. We encourage the County Council to identify ways to support small businesses, schools, and nonprofits. We, as an organization, are committed to supporting County Council as they develop the details to make Paid Parental Leave a reality.

Allegheny County's initiative is commendable, and it highlights the urgent need for a more comprehensive, state-level policy. We encourage Allegheny County leadership to work with legislators to approve and implement statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave program to ensure truly equitable access for all Pennsylvania families.

Allies for Children stands ready to support this initiative as a necessary step toward building a more resilient, family-friendly region. We look forward to seeing Allegheny County lead the way while continuing to champion the systemic changes required at the state level.

Thank you for your time and for your unwavering commitment to the children and families of Allegheny County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie B. A.", with a stylized, flowing script.

Executive Director
Allies for Children