

In the world, there are about 361,481 babies being born in just one day (Fetzer). This outstanding number obviously means that the number of people who become parents increases everyday too. With all of these new babies emerging around us, it is imperative that mothers around the world are taken care of as well. Although in the United States, not all mothers are able to get paid time off to have a relaxing and happy recovery with their newborn baby. It is essential for the United States to create a policy that sets aside paid time off for new mothers or fathers.

Newborn babies come into this world searching for a tenderness and love from their provider. It is essential for babies and their guardians to spend time together or there could be psychological repercussions. Babies benefit from attention to their needs as it helps create an irreplaceable bond with their parents, thus helping the baby create healthy relationships in the future ("Your child's development"). Whether the baby is cared for by the mother, father or adoptive parent, the human contact involved with tending to the baby's needs is essential for the baby's cognitive development. Therefore, new parents would not be able to seize this opportunity if they are not able to receive paid time off with their new offspring. It is also essential for a healthy baby and parent relationship for the bonding process to take place within the first few months of the baby's life. It is also very important for the new baby to bond with the whole family, if possible (Steinfeld). If a bond is not created for the new baby, it could be

detrimental to the baby's functioning ability in the future. If a newborn and the caregiver fail to create a stable connection, the baby could end up not trusting the caregiver. This would ultimately create emotional issues for the baby and possibly the caregiver. Because babies are the future leaders and innovators of this world it is highly imperative that we create the best learning and growing environment for them. That being said, the paid leave for a parent during the first few months of a baby's life is crucial to developing a psychologically healthy child. Evidence indicates that when a mother returns to work full-time in the first year of the baby's life, it could be detrimental to the cognitive development of the child (Baker and Milligan). Not only is it essential for the baby to receive care after entering the world, if a woman has just endured child birth she is not fit to detach herself from her newborn yet. Women often experience post-partum mental illnesses. That being said, the women who experience this should be able to recover without the worry of financial instability or stress from returning back to daily routine life.

The physical aspects of becoming a new mother are also a concern when developing paid leave policies in the United States. It is not unknown that women who've just endured childbirth have endured great pain. Therefore, it is quite absurd to expect their presence for anything that is not related to caring for the new baby. Physically and psychologically, a woman can endure many complications during labor. New mothers also have to deal with a plethora of situations after birth including vaginal birth recovery, Cesarean Section recovery and many other things. If they choose to do so, new mothers will need time to learn how to breastfeed properly. Breastfeeding is very important to some mothers as it helps them financially and also is another tactic to instill a strong bond with their newborn. Mothers and fathers need general time to recuperate after having a child (Burd and Kanipe). It is obvious that caring properly for a child is strenuous and parents need time to recover. It would be quite difficult to raise a child in desirable

way if the parent is fatigued and stressed out. Another thing that might add to the stress of becoming a new mother is if the newborn has any complications when being born. A mother would and should receive time to recover from any tragic mishaps during birth including a stillbirth or umbilical cord strangulation. Extra time to spend with a newborn baby should also be granted to the mother if the baby is born in a critical state.

It is foreseeable that many would refute the policy of federal maternity paid time off by explaining that a woman could choose not to have a baby. While this is a valid point, America needs women to keep having children in order to support out economy (Shortall). America's population needs to be sustained in order to stay as a top world power.

While mothers have been the only ones focused on here, it should be imperative that anyone who becomes a parent receives paid time off to care for their new children. This includes adoptive and same sex couples. Or if a father feels the need to take time off to care for a new child, he should have the right to freely choose and should not have to question if ethically and financially his job would support his decision.

All in all, no matter the circumstance every new parent deserves to have paid time off with their new child. It is beneficial to the child's neurological development, the parents' health, and even economically.