



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS  
AFL-CIO & CLC

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June 4, 2009

Dear Representative,

As President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding today's House consideration of HR 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009. IFPTE urges you to support this important piece of legislation.

Federal employees are currently entitled to 12 weeks of leave by virtue of the Family and Medical Leave Act. However, many are unable to take advantage of that benefit because workers are not compensated for any of that time. In other words, the federal government, which should be the example for private sector employers, provides no paid time off for workers to tend to the needs of their newly born infants, or newly adopted children. The best federal workers can do under current law is to plan ahead by banking their sick leave and vacation time for the purposes of caring for their children.

Much to her credit Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced HR 626 on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to help remedy this problem. Her bill mandates that 4 of the 12 weeks of leave granted to eligible federal employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act be paid time off. This bill would also apply to most federal workers across all branches of government, including the Legislative Branch.

We at IFPTE were heartened that an identical bill passed the House last year with a strong bipartisan vote of 278-146. However, despite this impressive endorsement, that bill never made it into law. Obviously, this legislation is long overdue and we at IFPTE ask that you vote to support it, without any weakening amendments, during its consideration today.

I thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,  
President

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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