



nurse alliance of California

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LA City Council
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Dear Honorable Members of the LA City Council,

On behalf of the 35,000 members of Nurse Alliance of California, I am writing to strongly urge you to support the inclusion of Paid Sick Leave in current advances on the livelihood and survival of our most vulnerable populations. As nurses, we have seen countless examples of exacerbated illnesses that could be prevented if workers did not have to choose between unemployment or taking care of their health.

As we see advances across the nation, we are proud that Los Angeles and other cities in California are taking the lead on enacting what is right, and should be common sense, that all citizens should be guaranteed a living wage and access to health care. Included in this should be adequate paid sick leave.

I did not have the opportunity to comment at the Economic Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday June 23, however, I was in attendance of support for the nurses I represent. I have seen a man's livelihood stripped away from him simply because he did not have the time to take care of his foot, because doing so would require him to take off of work, which he could not afford. As a result, he came to my hospital at Northridge in critical condition and we had to amputate his leg. He used this leg for operating a forklift, so now his tragic loss is extra cost for the county and state which could have been prevented if we established the right protocol for workers to begin with. Healthy workers equals healthy communities, period.

If Los Angeles wants to lead the way of progress, they will recognize the importance of establishing immediate protections for all workers, instead of prolonging the current stresses that our populations are experiencing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ingela Dahlgren'.

Ingela Dahlgren, RN
Executive Director, SEIU Nurse Alliance of California