

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Healthy Workplaces are Worth a Fortune**

*Voters deliver personalized fortune cookies in support of L.D. 1665*

Augusta – Dozens of voters turned out to make it clear that this year, the legislature's lucky number is L.D. 1665. Members of the Maine Women's Lobby, Maine People's Alliance, and MomsRising demonstrated their support for L.D. 1665, a bill that would provide paid sick days for all Maine workers, by handing out fortune cookies with fun and uplifting messages to legislators.

Members of the organizations previously voted for their favorite messages in an online poll. Among the winning fortunes: "Bring good fortune to Maine's families with paid sick days" and "You will be a part of the solution by supporting paid sick days."

"It is exciting to see the third floor filled with moms, business owners, employees, and concerned voters who took time out of their no-doubt busy day to advocate for this important legislation," says Maine Women's Lobby Executive Director, Sarah Standiford. "It is a tribute to the wide-spread citizen support for this legislation."

The vast majority of Maine voters believe Maine law should require paid sick days (87% as indicated by a Lake Research Partners opinion poll). Voters from across the state brought this message directly to legislators on Thursday – a visual representation of overwhelming support.

"I care a great deal about this legislation; as a mother myself I know how hard it is to have to work when you or your child is sick," said Kristina Minott, a Bangor resident. "That's why I'm helping to bring these messages from paid sick day supporters to the legislature."

When Mainers are forced to go to work sick, everyone pays the price, including their employers. On the other hand, providing paid sick days translates to real savings in the long run because of reduced spread of illness at the workplace and lower turnover.

“Research shows that providing paid sick days actually saves money in the long run,” said MomsRising Executive Director Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner. “According the Institute for Women's Policy Research, companies who offer paid sick days save \$4.18 per worker per week. By enacting paid sick days legislation, Maine lawmakers could save businesses in the state \$37 million a year from reductions in workplace absences and turnover. That's good fortune for families and businesses, any way you look at it.”

So, it's true – healthy workplaces *are* worth a fortune.

For a full list of the winning fortunes, visit [The Maine Women Lobby's Blog here](#).

*The Maine Women's Lobby is a non-partisan, nonprofit, membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action. [www.mainewomen.org](http://www.mainewomen.org)*

*[MomsRising](#) is an online and on-the-ground grassroots organization of more than a million people who are working to achieve economic security for all families in the United States. [MomsRising](#) is working for paid family leave, flexible work options, affordable child care, and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes so many mothers. [MomsRising](#) also advocates for healthcare for all, toxic-free environments, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start. Established in 2006, [MomsRising](#) and its members are organizing and speaking out to improve public policy and to change the national dialogue on issues that are critically important to America's families.*

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