



the work and family legal center

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 606, New York, NY 10038 | t: 212.430.5982 | info@abetterbalance.org | abetterbalance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 7, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Rachel Sica, rsica@abetterbalance.org,
[516-9841467](tel:516-9841467)

Working Families Mark Critical Progress for Paid Family Leave

A Better Balance Celebrates 10 Years with Public Conference

NEW YORK— Advocates, experts, and political leaders will participate in the *Moving Families Forward: Reflections on a Decade of Change* conference at New York University School of Law. Conference participants will engage in targeted advocacy efforts to support Governor Andrew Cuomo’s plan to pass paid family leave in New York. In addition to a keynote from Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul and opening remarks from Comptroller Scott Stringer, two expert panels will highlight the progress that has been made and where the national discussion on issues including paid family leave, pregnancy discrimination, women’s equality, and more, is headed.

As part of the conference, ABB released its 10th anniversary report entitled “[Moving Families Forward: Reflections on a Decade of Change](#).” Attendees were encouraged to share their personal story for why they support paid family leave and to sign on to a petition urging the state legislative leaders to approve Governor Cuomo’s paid family leave plan this year. Later this month, ABB will deliver nearly 14,000 signatures from New Yorkers who back the plan to legislative leaders.

“Whether it’s paid family leave or pregnancy discrimination, A Better Balance sees firsthand every day the high price working families pay when they are forced to make impossible choices between financial ruin and caring for their families,” said Dina Bakst, Co-Founder and Co-President of A Better Balance. “That’s why we are continuing our efforts at our conference to make New York’s paid family leave the strongest in the nation – and why going forward, we won’t stop advocating on a wide range of issues that are essential to a family’s economic security and wellbeing.”

“As we celebrate International Women's Day we should be inspired to move our country forward to catch up with other nations in providing paid leave and to insure that all women here in the US as well as around the world have the full opportunities they deserve to earn a living and care for their families,” said Sherry Leiwant, A Better Balance Co-Founder and Co-President.

Stories of struggling, hard-working families are far too common and demonstrate why paid family leave is essential to the wellbeing of thousands of New Yorkers. “I consider myself middle-class, but in New York, the reality is I live paycheck to paycheck,” said Kiesha Jones, who worked at her company for nearly a decade, but was forced to take only five days of maternity leave to avoid financial ruin. “My partner wants to have another child, but I know we can’t afford it.”

Today’s conference will be live-streamed beginning at 2:00 p.m. at law.nyu.edu/livestream. Join the conversation on Twitter using #ABBCConference.

###

[A Better Balance](#) is a national legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace and helping workers meet the conflicting demands of work and family. Follow on Twitter at @ABetterBalance and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ABetterBalance>.