



40 Worth Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10013 | t: 212.430.5982 | [info@abetterbalance.org](mailto:info@abetterbalance.org) | [abetterbalance.org](http://abetterbalance.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, Dec. 18, 2017

**CONTACT**

Rachel Sica

[rsica@abetterbalance.org](mailto:rsica@abetterbalance.org)

516-984-1467

## **New York’s Groundbreaking Paid Family Leave Law Begins Providing Benefits January 1, 2018**

### ***A Better Balance’s Family Leave Works Campaign Raises Awareness of New Benefits***

New York—Two weeks from today, New York’s landmark paid family leave law will begin providing benefits, extending critical support to millions of workers. A Better Balance helped lead the coalition that fought for and won the law, which guarantees covered workers paid, job-protected time off to bond with a new child for both moms and dads (including same-sex, adoptive, and foster parents), care for a seriously ill or injured family member, or address needs due to a family member’s military deployment.

For Madga Segura, New York’s paid family leave law came just in time. When she found out she was pregnant, her partner left, leaving her to provide for her growing family on her own. Magda, a line cook at a Manhattan restaurant, could not afford to take the leave she needed when her first two children were born and was forced to return to work far too soon. But this time, with assistance from the legal team at A Better Balance, New York paid family leave means she’ll be able to be with baby Kailee, born December 9, without risking her job or her family’s livelihood.

“New Yorkers will no longer have to choose between caring for their families and their paycheck,” said Dina Bakst, co-founder and co-president of A Better Balance. “This is a profoundly historic moment in the fight for fairness and justice for New York families. A Better Balance applauds Governor Cuomo for his tremendous leadership and serious commitment to ensuring all New Yorkers can take advantage of this critical benefit.”

In 2018, the law will guarantee up to 8 weeks of paid family leave and, once it is fully phased in, will provide up to 12 weeks of job-protected paid family leave- making it the strongest and most comprehensive paid leave policy in the nation.

“New York’s success shows how local and state governments can continue to make progress on behalf of working families, even in the face of persistent attacks at the federal level,” said Sherry Leiwant, co-founder and co-president of A Better Balance.

Since September, A Better Balance has been running the Family Leave Works campaign to raise awareness of the paid family leave law. The comprehensive education effort includes a website—[FamilyLeaveWorks.org](http://FamilyLeaveWorks.org)—and a free and confidential legal hotline in English and Spanish (1-833-NEED-ABB).

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