



## Happy Fathers' Day from First Shift Justice Project!

Access to leave is not a women's issue - it's a family issue. An economic security issue. A justice issue. A public health issue.

At [First Shift](#) we talk a lot about mothers because our outreach efforts are focused on pregnant and parenting women. But we also help dads assert their workplace rights.

First Shift client **Robert** was fired after the birth of his second son. In addition to working a full-time job, Robert was caring for his wife during a complicated pregnancy and his 2-year-old son, who has a seizure disorder.

Robert was entitled to unpaid family leave under Maryland's "little FMLA" and he even had some unused paid leave. Unfortunately, Robert's boss just couldn't get his head around the idea that Robert needed to be there for his family. The other men in Robert's workplace never asked for much family leave.

Robert's wife went into labor earlier than expected, and Robert, *after completing his duties for the day*, left work early to rush to the hospital. He was fired the next day.

First Shift is proud to be able to help fathers like Robert! It's one thing to have rights, but it takes brave workers like Robert to assert their rights, leading the cultural shift toward greater respect for family responsibilities in the workplace.

### FAMOUS!

Tune in to CBS on Sunday morning, June 21st for Fathers' Day! In a segment on paid leave, First Shift client Miyonna Bennett shares her personal experience of having children without the benefit of paid leave and speaks passionately about the need for federal legislation.



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