

SOMETHING GOOD FINALLY HAPPENED IN 2016!



Yesterday, amid a crowd of paid leave advocates, nine D.C. Councilmembers voted the Universal Paid Family Leave Act into law! Read the full story [here](#).

First Shift Justice Project was there, to ensure that paid leave will be available to the low-wage single mothers it serves. The new paid leave insurance system will provide up to 8 weeks of paid leave for new parents, whether they work full or part-time. Employers will be required to pay a .62% tax toward the program - [in the words of one small business owner](#), a cost that can be covered by selling "one or two extra cupcakes per day."

First Shift's clients will be the big winners: single mothers in low-income jobs who don't have *any* paid leave that they can use to deal with complications during pregnancy or recover from childbirth. Because of this lack of leave, First Shift clients have faced the threat of eviction and become homeless, have gone into debt, have been unable to meet the needs of their families, and have risked their health and the health of their babies by going to work instead of taking care of themselves.

But we are not done yet. Getting the law passed was really just the beginning. Over the next several years comes the hard work of designing a system makes it possible for low-income clients to access the leave that the law promises.

First Shift will continue to be there to advocate for our clients' interests and the interests of the two-thirds of the District's families which depend on the income of a single breadwinning mother.

You can make the promise of paid leave a reality by supporting us in finishing the work we have started. **Make your end of the year contribution today**, to support First Shift's work in 2017 and beyond!

Thank you!



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