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I have two young children under 3 years old and I can testify to the importance of paid family leave for every family. I am fortunate to have had 4 weeks paid parental leave through my work but even this is woefully insufficient in the face of what challenges young families are facing. For my first child, it took 8 months to find a daycare spot for her. This past winter, my children and really everyone's children were ill in a continuous loop. Were it not for a supportive boss, who also has a young child, my position would certainly have been in jeopardy for all the missed work days. So we were in the position of needing to pay for childcare and losing income from calling out of work.

These years have been incredibly difficult even though my family is privileged to have some paid leave and are comfortable financially. I have thought to myself countless times, how is this possible for families who are not so lucky. In the most ideal postpartum experience, one needs those weeks to recover from labor as well as bond with and adjust to life with a new baby. So many of us are not blessed with a perfect pregnancy and delivery experience. My son's birth was traumatic and resulted in an emergency cesarean birth. I suffered from postpartum depression. I'm fortunate that I didn't lose my job or my financial security because of these struggles. Every family should have that safety net. 6 months after I gave birth, my company decided without warning, they would discontinue their Paid Parental Leave policy. This callous whim left many of my pregnant nursing colleagues in an incredibly stressful situation. We owe young families more than this. We owe them guaranteed, sufficient time to go through this dramatic transition.