

Western Illinois University
2021 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Conference

Abstract

Recorded Scholarly Presentation

Major: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Tammy Werner

Paid Maternity Leave for Women Nationwide

Desiree Camp

This project is a work in progress for the Senior Capstone course in the Liberal Arts and Sciences. For this project, I am conducting research and writing a policy brief that advocates for nationwide paid maternity leave for women. This topic is one that caught my attention, being a woman in today's society and knowing that policies like these are still not mandatory for women in the workforce. Women should be able to create a family with their partner without being penalized for their personal life decision. There are only six states that have implemented a maternity leave policy. Studies have shown time and time again that paid maternity leave would be substantially beneficial for those involved. For the mothers, adequate maternity leave can lead to more health benefits. Allowing the adequate amount of time for women to heal, bond with their new born child, and settle into their new life is something that should be mandatory, without them feeling pressured to rush back to work in order to provide for their family. Not only is paid maternity leave beneficial for mothers and their health, it also lessens mortality rates in children and could potentially improve their health in the long run, having their mother there to cater to their every need. I hope that in doing this project and researching this policy, I will be able to voice my concerns and potentially start a change in the way maternity leave is portrayed currently in the United States.