Improving Perinatal Health Outcomes through Workplace Policies

## Workplace Policies Landscape



3 out of 4 women are the primary or cobreadwinner for their family

## Workplace Policies Landscape



#### Pregnant Worker Accommodations Landscape

Current federal law

"forbids discrimination based on pregnancy when it comes to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, job assignments, promotions, layoff, training, fringe benefits, such as leave and health insurance, and any other term or condition of employment."

#### Pregnant Worker Accommodations Landscape

Contiguous US

No State Protection
State Protection



Employment Protections For Workers Who Are Pregnant or Nursing, United States Department of Labor

## Pregnant Worker Accommodations Landscape



#### Consequences of Lack of Pregnancy Accommodations

#### **Health Risks**



- Dehydration
- Urinary tract infections
- Fainting and associated injuries
- Pre-term birth weight
- Low birth weight
- Pregnancy induced hypertension & preeclampsia
- Congenital anomalies
- Miscarriage

#### Consequences of Lack of Pregnancy Accommodations

FORCED TO TAKE FMLA

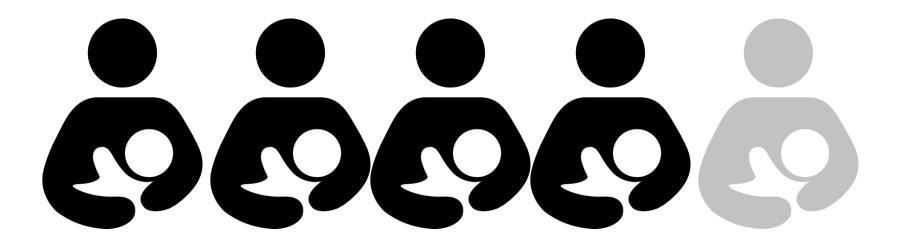


FIRED

NO HEALTH INSURANCE

QUIT

#### Breastfeeding Worker Accommodations Landscape



#### Breastfeeding Worker Accommodations Landscape





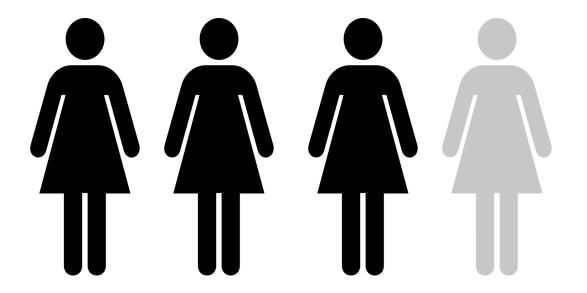
60% of working moms do not have adequate break time or a private space to pump in the workplace.

#### Earned Sick Days Landscape



**1.8 million** North Carolina workers can't earn a single paid sick day!

#### Paid Family & Medical Leave Landscape



1 in 4 moms are back to work within two weeks of giving birth

# The Need

### The Need

Women in low-wage and physically demanding jobs are those most likely to need supportive workplace policies

- Retail sales
- Food service workers
- Health care workers
- Stocking and packaging
- Laborers
- Freight
- Stock and material movers



# The Need

The lack of workplace policies that support pregnant workers contributes to increasing health disparities



- Maternal death and complications
- Infant and child death
- Ear infection
- GI infection
- Necrotizing Enterocolitis

# The Benefits

# Who Benefits?

- Healthier moms and babies
- Prevention of maternal and infant deaths
- Promotes family economic security
- Taxpayers



## Workplace Policies





#### Impact on North Carolina Children & Families