



Infographic

A New Solution: The Earned Income Leave Benefit

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The American Action Forum ([@AAF](#)) released an analysis and potential proposal to help low-income Americans gain access to paid family leave. The Earned Income Leave Benefit (EILB) is an example of a targeted and more cost-effective way to provide up to 12 weeks of paid family leave specifically for workers in low-income households. Under the EILB plan, the federal government would spend between \$1.5 billion and \$17.9 billion annually compared to the estimated \$85.9 billion to \$997.4 billion annual cost of other family leave proposals.

Click to view the [research](#).

WHICH IS BETTER?

THE PAID FAMILY LEAVE DILEMMA

As of now, there are no federal laws that entitle workers to paid family leave. Recently, the FAMILY Act has been championed to tackle paid family leave, but we've identified a more cost effective, targeted approach. Let's take a closer look at the alternative.

THE FAMILY ACT

VS

EARNED INCOME
LEAVE BENEFIT

LOWER-BOUND
\$85.9 BIL

COST

LOWER-BOUND
\$1.5 BIL

12.5%

WHO

92.6%

GOES TO THOSE UNDER
200% OF THE POVERTY LINE
(\$48,600 for a family of four)



HOW



BLANKET APPROACH

Benefits are proportional to an individual's earnings

Does not have a maximum earnings threshold to limit eligibility- **all workers qualify for the program**

TARGETED APPROACH

Benefits based on total household income

Caps the household income level at which a worker would be eligible for the program

With the federal government facing a very dismal budget outlook, an extremely expensive blanket policy like the **FAMILY ACT** is neither politically feasible nor fiscally responsible.



