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Councilmember Carol Schwartz
Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20004

February 19, 2008

Dear Councilmember Schwartz:

I am writing to commend you for your steadfast support of the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act at its first reading on February 5 -- a bill that would provide up to seven paid sick and safe days a year to more than 200,000 low-wage workers in the District of Columbia.

Private security officer Raquel Mack -- a pregnant and single mother who can't afford to lose a day's pay -- is just one of the 200,000 area workers who currently have no paid sick days at her job. All too often workers such as Raquel go to work ill when they should be home caring for a sick child.

In addition, this landmark bill would provide paid leave to victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse -- a first in the country. Furthermore, at a cost of just pennies a day, businesses will continue to thrive in Washington's strong and growing economy.

With a vote on final passage scheduled for March 4th, I am confident that you will urge your colleagues to join you in pushing back on any efforts to defeat the bill. Thank you for continuing to stand up for the thousands of workers.

Sincerely yours,

Jaime Contreras
Director, Capital Area District
SEIU Local 32BJ