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# Assembly California Legislature



**ASH KALRA**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE  
EDUCATION  
JUDICIARY  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

January 5, 2021

San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: Item 3.7 – COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Ordinance.**

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

I respectfully urge you to support staff recommendations to adopt an urgency ordinance to extend the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Ordinance that ended on December 31, 2020. I commend City staff for taking initiative in extending protections for San Jose families and workers during a time of uncertainty as our Federal government delays much needed extended relief during this pandemic. Unfortunately, despite efforts by me and others in the legislature, the state has also failed to extend necessary protections in time for families in need.

As the Chair of the California Assembly Labor and Employment Committee, it is a priority for me to ensure our working families are afforded the protections they deserve. We see it now during the pandemic that these same individuals are our essential workers who now more than ever need paid sick leave protections as they put their lives on the line to serve our community. Unfortunately, we have seen dramatic COVID-19 rates of infection in our city, particularly in East San Jose, where so many essential workers reside.

In addition, I commend City staff for incorporating a recommendation for private right of action to allow employees to file civil action to enforce the benefits of the COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Ordinance. As the City continues to grapple with staffing needs, coupled with the potential backlog of valid complaints, it is necessary to have protections in place to ensure this complaint-based system is enforced, and that employees receive the paid sick leave protections they deserve.

I am grateful to the Mayor and City Council for seriously taking the plight of families struggling to survive during this historic pandemic. My office is available to assist on issues as they continue to arise. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra".

ASH KALRA