

Indianapolis is the First Stop on Zero Weeks Tour

Indiana Institute for Working Families & AARP Indiana host films screenings to raise awareness about paid leave

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Contact:

Erin Macey, Indiana Institute for Working Families | emacey@incap.org | 317.638.4232

Jason Tomcsi, AARP Indiana | jtomcsi@aarp.org | 317.435.9447

Indianapolis, IN — AARP Indiana and Indiana Institute for Working Families are taking the award-winning documentary Zero Weeks on a five-city tour of Indiana to engage communities in dialogue about paid family and medical leave. The tour launches in Indianapolis on August 16th at Landmark Keystone Arts Cinema.

“Welcoming a new baby into your family, staying beside your child’s hospital bed, or holding a parent’s or spouse’s hand as he takes his final breath – these are incredibly important moments. Lack of paid leave prevents Hoosiers from being there for their families or requires them to make incredible financial sacrifices to do so. We see this important film as an opportunity to raise awareness and to engage in conversation with communities across the state about solutions,” said Erin Macey, Policy Analyst at Indiana Institute for Working Families.

“We’ve see local leaders and the governor move this important issue forward by offering paid parental leave for their employees,” said Ambre Marr, AARP Indiana Legislative Director. “While parental leave is incredibly important, the option for more workplace flexibility, including paid leave, is also critical for Hoosier family caregivers. Family caregivers are the backbone of our long-term care system here in Indiana, providing care valued at \$9.5 billion annually. As our population ages, the need for more supportive leave policies becomes even more critical because most of us are, have been, or will be a family caregiver.”

The United States is the only developed nation in the world that doesn’t offer paid family leave. For millions of Americans, the birth of a new child, a cancer diagnosis, or the need to take care of an aging parent can mean financial ruin or unemployment. Weaving powerful stories together with insightful interviews from leading policy makers, economists, and researchers, Zero Weeks is a new documentary that makes the case for guaranteed paid leave for every American worker. The film takes a compelling look at the issue from an emotional, medical, financial and global perspective. Zero Weeks is the fourth film by award-winning director Ky Dickens, a female director with a track record of using her work to shift policy and public opinion. The film held its world premiere at the prestigious Camden International Film Festival in September 2017.

"All of my films were birthed from necessity," said Ky Dickens, Director of Zero Weeks. "Following the birth of my daughter, I was faced with the experience of inadequate maternity leave, which left me in emotional and financial distress. That experience became a gateway for awareness that millions of men and women face the same situation every year. The paid leave crisis does not only affect new parents, but anyone who has struggled with a personal injury or life-threatening illness, or cared for a sick spouse or aging parent."

AARP Indiana and Indiana Institute for Working Families are partnering with local organizations across the state on the five-city tour. They will host screenings in Bloomington, Indiana on August 28th and South Bend, Indiana on September 12th. Other dates will be announced. Visit <http://www.incap.org/iwfw/zeroweeks.html> for more information and future event listings.

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