As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on for over six months, Paid Leave for All surveyed 600 small business owners nationwide to explore their attitudes toward paid family and medical leave. Small business owners favor the U.S. having a national paid family and medical leave policy by wide margins, and favorability grows with additional information about paid time effectively stopping the spread of COVID-19. Small business owners also are more supportive of Congress providing all employees with paid time off during the pandemic rather than providing a liability shield for all corporations.

**Attitudes toward Paid Family and Medical Leave**

About two-thirds of small business owners favor the US having a national policy for paid family and medical leave (64%).

Additional information about studies that show that allowing workers who are ill to take paid time off is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 increases favorability of paid family and medical leave (69%).

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1 Split sampled question
2 Ibid
This is not a partisan issue. Across party identification, a majority of small business owners favor the US having a national policy for paid family and medical leave.

- Among Democrats, 80% favor and 9% oppose
- Among Independents, 52% favor, and 33% oppose
- Among Republicans, 55% favor, and 33% oppose

Additional information about how studies show that allowing ill workers to take paid time off is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 increases favorability of paid family and medical leave significantly across party identification.

- Among Democrats, 87% favor and 9% oppose
- Among Independents, 66% favor, and 14% oppose
- Among Republicans, 56% favor, and 28% oppose

Small Business Owners Support Paid Leave over Liability Insurance

In a forced-choice, small business owners choose providing all employees a certain number of days for paid sick leave or paid family and medical leave during the time of the pandemic two-to-one over providing a liability shield for all corporations that protects them from lawsuits for decisions they make related to the pandemic.

Congress is considering a range of new policies in response to COVID-19. Of the following two, which do you support more?

- Providing all employees a certain number of days for paid sick leave or paid family and medical leave during the time of the pandemic
- Providing a liability shield for all corporations that protects them from lawsuits for decisions they make related to the pandemic

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted online nationwide between August 31 – September 16, 2020. The survey reached a total of 600 small business owners with oversamples of 100 Black small business owners, and 100 Latinx or Asian American or Pacific Islander small business owners.

The sample was drawn from an online panel of small business owners and respondents were screened to be the current owner of a small business in the United States, who operates and makes decisions for the business,
operates a for profit business, and employs 0-49 employees including themselves and excluding contractors, with a cap of 25% of respondents who employed 1 person before the pandemic and currently employ 1 person.

To ensure the data reflects attributes of the actual population of small business owners in the U.S., the base sample was weighted by gender, region, age, race, and number of employees prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The sample of Black small business owners was weighted by gender and age. The sample of Latinx and Asian American Pacific Islander small business owners was weighted by gender, region, race, and number of employees prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The overall margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 4.0.