

National Policy Initiatives

- Maine passed the “Economic Abuse Law” in November 2019 with three main protections:
 1. Amending the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“MFDCPA”) to provide certain protections from debt collection for survivors of economic abuse,
 2. Amending the Maine Fair Credit Reporting Act (“MFCRA”) to require credit reporting agencies to remove from a consumer’s credit report any debt that is determined to be the result of economic abuse, and
 3. Authorizing the courts to order compensation for losses resulting from economic abuse.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/maine-enacts-law-protecting-victims-of-69515/>

- New York City passed “Earned Safe and Sick Time Act” in May 2018 which mandates employers with 5 or more employees and employers of at least one domestic worker paid sick and safe time at a rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked. The Act also sets guidelines as to what time off can be applied to safe and sick leave and how it is accrued.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/about/Paid-Safe-and-Sick-Leave-Law-Rules.pdf>

- Illinois passed the **Victims Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA)** in 2003 and amended it in 2009:

“The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA) allows employees who are victims of domestic or sexual violence or who have family or household members who are victims of such violence to take up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave per any twelve (12) month period to seek medical help, legal assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance. The Act also prohibits employers from discriminating against employees who are victims of domestic or sexual violence or who have family or household members who are victims of domestic or sexual violence.”

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2502&ChapAct=820%26nbsp%3bILCS%26nbsp%3b180/&ChapterID=68&ChapterName=EMPLOYMENT&ActName=Victims%27+Economic+Security+and+Safety+Act.>