

Labor Project *for* Working Families

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ABOUT NETSY FIRESTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Netsy Firestein is founder and Executive Director of the Labor Project for Working Families, a national non-profit organization that educates and empowers unions to organize, bargain and advocate for family friendly workplaces.

Ms. Firestein is recognized as a national expert on labor and work family issues. For over 25 years, Ms. Firestein has worked with the labor movement to ensure that work family issues are an integral part of labor's organizing, bargaining and advocacy efforts. She has guided several unions to develop collective bargaining language and negotiate for work family programs.

Ms. Firestein has also helped forge important partnerships between labor and community groups to advocate for statewide and national work family policies. She chairs the California Work and Family Coalition that successfully advocated for the passage of the nation's first Paid Family Leave law in 2002. The Coalition is committed to raising awareness about and advancing work family policies including paid sick days, expanding family leave and preventing caregiver discrimination. In 2003, Ms. Firestein helped to organize Family Values @ Work, a Multi-State Consortium of eleven states working to advance statewide work family policies. She also plays a leadership role in the National Work and Family Collaborative, a large network of organizations that has put forth the "Valuing Families at Work: Priorities for Federal Action" agenda to make visible the need for new enforceable workplace standards including paid sick days, job-protected and paid family leave and flexible work schedules.

Ms. Firestein has co-authored and contributed articles in several publications including:

- "Family Friendly Workplaces – Do Unions Make A Difference?" with Jenifer MacGillvary, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, 2009.
- "Union Strategies for Work-Family Issues: Collective Bargaining and Public Policies" in *Work-Life Policies* edited by Ann C. Crouter and Alan Booth, The Urban Institute Press, 2009.
- "Unions Fight for Work and Family Policies – Not for Women Only" in *The Sex of Class, Women Transforming American Labor* edited by Dorothy Sue Cobble, Cornell University Press, 2007.
- "Paid Family Leave in California, How We Won" and "Learning from Union Programs" in *The Motherhood Manifesto* by Joan Blades, 2006.

Partnering with unions to put families first.