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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shriver Center Joins Call for Paid Sick Days for Chicago Workers

As part of its efforts to strengthen the economic security of working families, on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, the Shriver Center will rally outside City Hall with Chicago workers and families, business owners, health care practitioners, women's advocates, and Chicago aldermen to call for earned sick time for Chicago workers. Currently, more than 460,000 Chicago workers lack access to paid sick days, meaning that they could be fired or lose pay for staying home to care for themselves or a loved one.

"Paid sick days provide significant public health and economic benefits to the economy as a whole, and are especially important to low-wage workers," said Shriver Center President John Bouman. Nationally, nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers and more than 70 percent of low-wage workers receive no paid sick day. "Providing paid sick days is a basic but important anti-poverty measure," said Wendy Pollack, Director of the Shriver Center's Women's Law and Policy Project. The rally is part of a movement across the country to get more cities and states to adopt legislation in support of earned sick time.

The rally is organized by the Chicago Earned Sick Time Coalition. In addition to Mr. Bouman, leaders scheduled to appear at the rally include Alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno; Alderman Toni Foulkes; Anne Ladky and Melissa Josephs, Women Employed; Teresa Ging, owner of Sugar Bliss Cake Boutique; Carlos Romero, Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) Chicago; Rev. C.J. Hawking, Arise Chicago; and Dr. Lorraine Conroy, Illinois Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Education Center.

WHAT: Call for Earned Sick Time

WHEN: Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: 121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL

For more information on the rally, contact local coalition contact: Kristin Ginger, Communications Coordinator, Women Employed, kginger@womenemployed.org or 312-782-3902 X256

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (www.povertylaw.org)

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We specialize in practical solutions. Through our advocacy, communication, and training programs, we advocate for and serve clients directly, while also building the capacity of the nation's legal aid providers to advance justice and opportunity for their clients.

