PRESERVE FAMILY BENEFITS!

A few facts:

• In place since 1996, the “Sick Leave Bank” covers 1,200 professional staff at UMass Amherst represented by SEIU Local 509.

• All members gave up 3 sick days per year to automatically be members of the bank.

• Members can access bank for personal illness/injury, to care for a sick family member, or for maternity/parental leave.

• Members must first use up all sick and personal time, and all but 10 days of vacation time.

• The Bank is governed by a Union-Management Board that operates by consensus; it has been very successful.

Management is demanding that the UMass/Amherst Sick Leave Bank stop granting time for members who need to care for ill family members or who are on maternity leave. The Union is arguing that this resource must be maintained and also extended to UMass/Boston. If management succeeds in their demands, UMass/Boston will not have comparable resources and UMass/Amherst employees may lose these important benefits. **Management agrees that the Bank has not been abused; they agree that there is lots of time in the bank, and still they want to go backwards!**

The UMass/Amherst “Sick Leave Bank” is a model for a family friendly workplace!!

What you can do:
Please write a letter of support to: William Bulger, President; University of Massachusetts, One Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108

CC: Ferd Wulkan, Local 509 SEIU; 150 Fearing Street, Amherst, MA 01002