



TO: Interested parties
FROM: Grow Progress and Paid Leave for All Action
DATE: April 4, 2025
SUBJECT: Support for Proxy Voting in Congress for New Parents

Test Details

Paid Leave for All Action ran a Rapid Message Test with **Grow Progress** on April 1, 2025, to understand the effect of messages in support of proxy voting for new parents in Congress and federal legislation to provide permanent paid family and medical leave so that families and businesses have the support they need.

Grow Progress interviewed a nationally representative sample of 3,000 participants. Results were available within 24 hours. The test measured the impact of three messages relative to an unrelated message:

- A quote from Representative Anna Paulina Luna
- A quote from Representative Brittany Pettersen
- A message summarizing Speaker Johnson's efforts to block the vote

The full text of these messages is included at the end of this memo, along with more details on the test itself.

Headlines

Hearing even a little bit about Speaker Johnson's actions to block proxy voting dramatically increases support for allowing new parents in Congress to vote remotely by designating a colleague to vote on their behalf. **The messages increase support for proxy voting by 12-14 points and create a swing of up to 23 points toward support.**

Support for proxy voting grows regardless of whether people hear a statement from one of the Republican or Democratic cosponsors or a message that specifically mentions Speaker Johnson's refusal to hold a vote.

Support also grows consistently among nearly all demographic groups, including gender, race, age, income, and ideology, reflecting the measure's broad, common-sense appeal.

In addition to making people feel more supportive of proxy voting, Speaker Johnson's refusal to move proxy voting forward also increases overall support for federal legislation to provide paid family and medical leave.

Detailed Findings

The increase in support for proxy voting was consistent across almost all demographic groups, with some notable highlights:

- Initial support among younger people 18–34 was lower than other age groups but increased by +12pp after seeing the *Anna Paulina Luna* message.
- Support increased by 12–44pp among Latino, Black, and white participants after reading the *Anna Paulina Luna* message.
- Support increased across party ID and ideology groups, with support among Republicans and Conservatives increasing by 11–13pp depending on which message they saw.

Reading the message about Speaker Johnson’s refusal to bring proxy voting to the floor increases overall support for federal-paid family and medical leave by four points – a statistically significant change. Learning about Speaker Johnson’s position appears to increase support for federal legislation among some notable subgroups, including Latino participants (+14), Independents (+7), and moderates (+7).

None of the messages created any backlash regarding support for proxy voting or paid family leave legislation. In a polarized environment, messages that increase support among some groups often decrease support among others. That is not the case here.

Appendix

Full Text of Messages

<p><i>Each message began with the following statement: “There is a bipartisan proposal in Congress for a rules change to allow Members of Congress who are new parents to vote remotely by designating another member on their behalf -- called a vote by proxy.”</i></p>	
<p>Anna Paulina Luna</p>	<p>Representative Anna Paulina Luna, a Member of Congress, said: "Members of Congress shouldn't have to choose between their commitment to their family and their constituents. Today, we're one step closer to ending that dilemma by allowing new and expecting mothers and fathers in Congress the option of voting by proxy. I'm proud of this bipartisan legislation, and we will bring it to a vote as soon as possible. We have received overwhelming support from a majority of the conference and have ensured that this legislation is in line with the Constitution. If Congress wants to have a governing</p>

	body that is truly reflective of the American people, it should allow and encourage new parents to vote while in office."
Brittany Pettersen	<p>Representative Brittany Pettersen, a Member of Congress, said: "Our government works best when the life experiences of the American people are represented. Enabling new parents to vote by proxy while they spend time recovering and taking care of their newborn baby is an important step in modernizing Congress and addressing one of the significant barriers young parents face to serving."</p> <p>"No Member of Congress should have to choose between caring for their newborn and representing their constituents," said Pettersen. "While Speaker Johnson decided to not move forward with our resolution – despite bipartisan support – we refused to back down. I'm so grateful for all the people who stepped up and helped us get one step closer to modernizing Congress."</p>
Speaker Johnson	Speaker Johnson is trying to block new parents in Congress from voting—just for taking leave to care for their baby. It's outrageous, but it reflects what millions of working families face every day: being penalized for caregiving. While Congress hands out billions to the wealthy, they can't even support one of their own taking parental leave. It's time to stop the hypocrisy and start standing up for real family values.

What are Rapid Message Tests?

Rapid Message Tests are Randomized Controlled Trials, the gold standard in scientific testing to measure the extent to which one factor causes another. Respondents in the test are assigned to either a placebo or a treatment group who will receive one of the messages or pieces of content you are testing. After each participant sees either the placebo or one of your treatments, they answer a set of questions. The difference between responses of people who saw the placebo and responses of people who saw any of the treatment conditions is used to determine the persuasive effect of your messages.

In a Rapid Message Test, participants are not asked about the messages they saw, they are asked about their opinions or beliefs on a topic that the messages worked to persuade them on, allowing us to observe whether or not the messages are persuasive.