



## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House  
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### \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

## **Lt. Governor Molly Gray to Host “Seat at the Table” on Caregiving During COVID-19 & Paid Family and Medical Leave**

### **What:**

President Biden recently unveiled the [American Families Plan](#) which proposes a comprehensive paid family and medical leave plan for the United States. Importantly, the Plan acknowledges that the pandemic has set back 30 years of progress of women in the workforce and has meant \$64 billion in lost wages and economic activity. Additionally, the Plan notes that 1 in 4 women in the United States return to work within two weeks of giving birth and 1 in 5 retirees depart the workforce earlier than anticipated to care for an ill family member. As one of the oldest states in the nation with a persistent demographic crisis, Vermont is not immune from these statistics. This "Seat at the Table" aims to amplify the experiences of parents, families, and employers in meeting caregiving needs during the pandemic and to build support for a national paid family and medical leave strategy that supports a stronger and more equitable recovery for the state.

### **When:**

Monday, May 17, 2021 from 12:30-1:30

### **Where:**

The “Seat at the Table” is hosted via Zoom every other Monday. The series is recorded and available for use via the Lt. Governors YouTube Channel (link below). Following the panel discussion, Lt. Governor Gray and speakers will be available to meet with members of the media via Zoom. To register, please visit: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/seatatthetable>

### **Speakers:**

Liz Gamache, Former Mayor of the City of St. Albans  
Hallie Picard, Head of Human Resources at The Alchemist  
Jessica Arencibia, Licensed Massage Therapist, Owner of Healing Arts Massage  
Eric Sorkin, Co-Founder and Owner of Runamok Maple  
Morgan Nichols, Vermont State Director, Main Street Alliance

### **Notes:**

Video of prior “Seat at the Table” events on broadband, equity in public health access, the well-being of Vermont Women, climate change, and more are available via YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaI5zKCRzGK4N9BNyP\\_X4cw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaI5zKCRzGK4N9BNyP_X4cw)

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