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ICYMI: "The Governor Is Right On [Sick Pay Reform]..."

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Unhealthy policy

The Record Editorial

Saturday, December 10, 2011

SICK PAY is so-called for a very good reason: It's meant to be used by people who are sick.

It was never intended to be abused, accumulated for extra vacation time or cashed in and added on to compensation received at the end of a worker's career.

In New Jersey, in the public sector, the sick time payout tab has been going higher and higher, like a runaway fever. In the process, it has run up quite a bill for the state and for municipalities that must pay it. And, of course, New Jersey taxpayers are the ones feeling the bite. ...

The governor is right on this one. It is a practice "absolutely indefensible." ...

In New Jersey's ongoing fight to bring down the cost of government, the issue of sick time payouts would seem to be a no-brainer. In his nearly two years in office, Christie and the Legislature have worked together to bring needed changes to employee benefits in the state, from pension reform to health care premiums.

Compared to those larger issues, we would think the sick-time pay policy would be an easy reform to achieve. Sick-time pay should be used by the sick, at the time they are sick. Anything beyond that is a luxury the state can no

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longer afford.

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