



Parental Leave and American Exceptionalism

Saul Levmore



PARENTAL LEAVE AND AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

Saul Levmore[†]

INTRODUCTION

Why does the United States have one of the least generous parental leave policies in the world? What will the future of our parental leave policies look like? It is often the case that understanding current

policy is a means toward predicting future policies. Moreover, change seems most likely in areas where a country's policies differ so from those found elsewhere.

In the case of parental leave, cross-country comparisons are

paid leave to attract employees, especially when the competition for exceptional women became intense. It now seems reckless to restructure the benefit as a payment or bonus for returning to work for a significant period. It is also difficult to pay more for less work

have not had children, or have not taken leave to do so. But more significant payment for child-care seems like the next step in

parental leave for professionals. After all, the two-tier system of which this is a part probably reduces the political push for universal