Reviewer's report

Title: Agenda-setting for Canadian Caregivers: Using media analysis of Maternity Leave Benefits to inform Compassionate Care Benefits

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Reviewer: Sylvia Guendelman

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This policy paper explores how maternity leave benefits expanded in Canada since its inception in 1971 to the present, and draws parallels that might help to inform the expansion of the Compassionate Care Benefits program implemented in 2004. The paper draws on content analysis of media articles using explicit criteria and applies a specific policy framework (Kingdon) to discuss the findings about the developmental trajectory of these two programs.

Although the content describing the evolution of these programs is very interesting, I am unsure as to what this study adds to what is already known about the Canadian MLP. It would be important and most helpful if the authors could link developmental changes in the program with actual changes in uptake of leave by both mothers and fathers in response to the programmatic changes.

It is also unclear how the recommendations provided were derived from the content analysis. The authors recognize that they selected very specific and limited media for their review of the MLP. For instance the MLB content analysis is solely based on the Globe and Mail reviews, using maternity leave, not paternity leave as a key search word. Furthermore this newspaper mainly covered Ontario and Quebec while omitting coverage of other provinces.

The authors need to clarify what the recommendations are meant to address.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests