



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 3, 2013

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3390

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for House Bill 3390, legislation that would create standards for Oregon employers to offer earned paid sick leave for eligible employees. This legislation would create a statewide solution to a problem that affects families across the state.

Paid sick leave addresses a serious and everyday public health concern. When faced with illness, many people have no choice but to go to work sick in order to pay their bills and provide for their families. This means that workers are more likely to spread illness to co-workers while on the job rather than recovering from the illness in their home environment. In addition, sick children often end up going to school rather than being cared for at home because the parent cannot afford to lose a day of work. The child spreads the sickness to other children who in turn spread it to other families and then workers. Productivity in the workplace suffers significantly as this cycle continues.

On March 13th, 2013, the Portland City Council voted unanimously to create standards for paid and unpaid earned sick time for employees working in the City of Portland. We took this vote because we see sick leave as an important human rights and public health issue. Workers shouldn't have to choose between their health, the health of their families, and their ability to pay rent and keep food on the table.

With the passage of paid sick leave in Portland, we joined a growing movement to protect the health and financial security of workers and their families. We hope that Oregon will join the state of Connecticut and become the second state in the U.S. to offer a statewide paid sick leave program. This is a public health issue that is crucial for the health of businesses and families in Oregon. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner