

Chair Dougherty and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on paid sick leave.

I have been working for the same grocery store for 15 years, and while I have some paid sick hours I can't actually use them until the 3rd day that I'm sick. On top of that, I have to bring in a doctor's note or else I would get in big trouble. I can't afford to lose 2 days' pay, and I certainly can't afford to go to the doctor on top of that. As a result, I go to work sick all the time.

When I absolutely can't get to work because I am so sick, and I stay home without pay, I have to decide which bills won't get paid that month. I do my best to keep it from affecting my children but I don't always succeed.

Even though I have worked for this same employer for 15 years, I worry about being fired if I get sick. As a mother, I have had to stay home sick occasionally not only for my own sickness but also for my children's. In addition, this past year my son was being bullied and I had to take time off in order to work with the school and keep him from being harmed. As a result, I took what was considered to be "too many" unpaid sick days. I was written up, and told that I'm on a slippery slope and I need to be careful. This is devastating to me. I need my job and I can't afford to quit or get fired.

Paid sick days would make a big difference to me and to so many other people like me -- I wouldn't have to go to work sick, I wouldn't have to worry about paying my bills, and I could address my son's being bullied at school without being scared of losing my job. Oregonians need paid sick days. I hope you will pass this law.

Thank you,

Susan Lund