

Testimony in support of HB 3390  
Submitted by Megan Coppock

Dear Chair Garrett and members of the House Committee on Rules,

I appreciate this opportunity to share my experience and opinions regarding the matter of paid sick leave. Unfortunately, I can not be at the hearing in person, so thank you for taking the time to read through and consider my written testimony.

My name is Megan Coppock. I am a mother of two small children, a wife, a full-time student, and a native Oregonian. The majority of my twenty year work history consists of working in the restaurant industry. In general this means I had no paid sick leave. If I got sick or there was a family emergency, I would have to call my co-workers to see if anyone would trade shifts with me. Although I could usually find someone to take my shift, most often they were not interested in trading one of theirs -- meaning that I would lose the day's pay. Although we always made it work, the loss of income added a lot of stress to my family, especially after having children. As we live pretty much hand-to-mouth, losing a day's pay would mean we'd have to cut back at the grocery store and any other areas we could. We'd often worry about being able to cover our bills, and on a couple of occasions we ended up having to borrow money in order to make ends meet. I strongly believe that all workers need paid sick days. Being sick should not add a tremendous amount of stress to a family by putting the whole family's financial security at risk.

My restaurant experience includes many years as a manager and two years as the head manager of an extremely busy brew pub. As such, I have spent many hours working to balance labor cost. I therefore have compassion for restaurant owners who are worried about the effect of mandatory paid sick leave on their bottom line. However, I truly believe that managers and owners can work to fit this into their budgets without hurting their business.

Thank you again for taking the time to read and consider my testimony and for your continued work on this important matter.

With respect and appreciation,

Megan Coppock