

June 5, 2013

To: House Rules Committee  
From: Main Street Alliance Business Owners  
Re: Main Street Alliance of Oregon Businesses' Support For Paid Sick Leave (HB 3390-2)

Chair Garrett and Committee Members,

As Oregon small business owners we support an Oregon-wide earned sick leave law. The ordinance recently passed in Portland is a good first step, but it would be better for Oregon businesses to have one consistent law across the state instead of a patchwork of city-by-city standards.

We support earned sick leave because we don't want our employees (or any employees) working while sick. Those who do spread illness, are less productive, and increase health care costs for all of us. The costs involved in providing paid sick time are minimal and are outweighed by the benefits we get by providing them.

A statewide standard ensures that we're not competing in a business environment that incentivizes poor employment practices - like not providing earned sick time. We need a level playing field across the state that ensures employees at every income level are treated humanely and that employers who do the right thing aren't disadvantaged by those who don't.

We live in Oregon and the people in this state matter to us. Our profits aren't shipped out of state. They stay right here in our local economy. And we know our businesses do better when the people living in our communities do better, too. When working families have more income to provide for their basic needs and more job security they are also more able to support local businesses like ours.

We urge you to move ahead with a statewide law on earned sick leave. We know the business community is likely to be divided, but we stand united in our support.

Respectfully yours,

Serena Cruz Walsh, Albina Construction LLC, Portland  
David V. Cramer, Andrews, Cramer and Ersoff, Lincoln City  
Mark Kellenbeck, BrainJoy LLC, Medford  
Mike Sumner, Case Automotive Inc, Woodburn  
Tamra Hart, Crendo, Salem  
Michael Barthmus, Doppio Coffee & Lounge, Hood River  
Nancy Bahr, Found Objects, McMinnville  
Steve Milligan, GNS Security, Monmouth  
Shelda Homes, Hands On Medicine, Portland  
Jim Houser, Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland  
RJ McHatton, Inventive Productions, Bend  
Joe Hayes, Joe Hayes and Associates, Beaverton  
Steve Hanrahan, Mirador Community Store, Portland

Bill Dickey, Morel Ink, Portland  
Nancy Matela, Nancy Matela Realtor, Portland  
Deborah & John Field, Paperjam Press, Portland  
Bryan Steelman, Por Que No Taqueria, Portland  
Harry Bose, Read and Bose PC, Pendleton  
Wende Jarman, "Reds" Barber Shop, Florence  
Antonio Melendez, Rogue Roasters, Grants Pass  
Renee Spears, Rose City Mortgage, Portland  
Catherine Matthias, Stewart Jones Designs, Joseph  
Jason Rens, SuperMaker, Portland  
Carol Hanks, The Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., Pendleton  
Brian Setzler, TriLibrium, Portland  
Mike Nagle, Upper Cut Barber Shop, The Dalles  
Barb Campbell, Wabi Sabi LLC, Bend

**Selected statements supporting paid sick leave from some of these business owners:**

**Catherine Matthias, Stewart Jones Design, Joseph:**

*Without paid sick leave, workers come to work doing inferior work and infect others. This is not good business.*

**Bill Dickey, Morel Ink, Portland:**

*We should be offering this to everyone in the state, not just Portland.*

**Mike Nagel, Upper Cut Barber, The Dalles:**

*If we don't have paid sick leave, we don't really have sick leave.*

**Barb Campbell, Wabi Sabi LLC, Bend:**

*We need consistent practices so that treating employees fairly does not put us at an economic disadvantage.*

**Steve Hanrahan, Mirador Community Store, Portland**

*We've provided sick pay ever since we had employees as we realized that not only did we not want employees coming to work sick and spreading it to us and our customers, but also that our employees relied on their work to support themselves and couldn't afford to not get paid when they couldn't come to work.*

**Tamra Hart, Crendo, Salem:**

*I just spent 4 days at home making sure I was not breathing on small children, pregnant moms, or any of the other folks who walk in the doors of my business. Yes, I had work to do that I should have been in the office doing -- but giving them my horrible cold would be a horribly selfish act. We need paid sick leave so our employees feel the same way...and so I don't catch yet another cold from someone's employee who didn't feel they could stay home.*

**From Mark Kellenbeck, BrainJoy, LLC, Medford, and co-chair, Main Street Alliance of Oregon:**

*The business return on paid sick leave is many fold: a healthier workforce on the whole, greater productivity, happier and healthier families who benefit from well parents, happier and healthier children who benefit from the personal care of parents when ill, a great sense of care and community in the workforce, loyal and appreciative employees. Paid sick leave makes sound business sense in every measure I can think of. Above all, to me it reflects small business' value of and for their employees.*

**Jim Houser, Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland, and co-chair, Main Street Alliance of Oregon:**

*We have provided paid sick days for over 30 years. The employee loyalty engendered by offering good benefits like paid sick days has enabled our company to thrive during even the hardest times.*

**RJ McHatton, Inventive Productions, Bend:**

*I really support this new law on earned sick leave.*

**Renee Spears, Rose City Mortgage, Portland:**

*This is one of the biggest things we can do to improve our public health. Please support!*