

March 12, 2013

Abram Rosenthal
CCB# 171525
1804 N. Colfax St.
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To: Oregon House Committee on Business and Labor
C/O: branden.pursinger@state.or.us
Re: Public Hearing scheduled for Mar. 15, 2013 on HB 2950

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with appreciation for Representatives Keny-Guyer, Weidner, Senator Boquist, Representatives Lively, Matthews, Reardon, Thompson, Williamson, Witt and others, that I offer this testimony of support for the Amendment to House Bill 2950, to include specific rights for the needs of those losing a family member.

As stated in the proposed amendment - allowing a person to take up to two weeks, unpaid, within the first three months of losing a family member, in order to attend the funeral or its alternative, to make necessary arrangements necessitated by the death, to grieve and receive needed counsel or related medical treatment - is not only a humane proposition, but a concern that inevitably touches all citizens of every age, and, I also believe, fulfills a necessary human right.

Speaking as a person who in recent years has been a responsible party in the funeral arrangements for parents, a brother, and most recently my own wife, after an unforeseen and rapidly moving cancer, I can testify, not only for myself, but for the bereavement support community I have met under the auspices of Legacy Hospices Services, that the *absence* of such support for the grieving in our Family Leave legislation might be considered a glaring *inhumanity*.

Being a teacher and a self-employed building contractor for most of my working life, I never considered it another's responsibility to financially compensate me for the time required to resolve the practical and emotional issues that can overtake one's life in the face of these inevitable losses. However, it is unthinkable to deny the unique and unpredictable needs of oneself, family members, friends or fellow workers who have ever experienced such loss. Yet, I have witnessed blindness to these issues, and the unrealistic expectations that compound a person's misery when adequate leave is not granted, let alone understood. This recognition and comprehension belongs within our laws. It is needed.

I urge you, with all the influence and support I can bring to bear upon this issue, to enact HB2950 as amended. There are few issues, it seems these days, when legislative contention and obstruction don't have to play their slow hand. May this be an exception where caring and mature leaders can agree, and with expediency.

Respectfully Yours, Abram Rosenthal