

February 16, 2015

Oregon Senate Committee on Workforce
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of and Adjustments to SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members:

This letter is written in support of SB 454 and HB2005 and with a few suggestions for adjustments that would further strengthen the Oregon Statewide Sick Leave bill and make it more palatable to more small business owners.

Schirmer Satre Group is a small business of 6: 4 employees and 2 business owners. We have been in business in Eugene for quite some time and have always offered 5 days of sick leave to all of our full time employees. We believe in the value of that paid sick leave for the continued health of the families we support as well as the health of their fellow employees and us as the owners. It makes sense. A statewide bill also makes sense.

What doesn't make sense is allowing the opportunity for local jurisdictions to have their own sick leave ordinance if a state wide law is passed. I would strongly encourage you to add language that prevents a local sick leave ordinance from being in effect alongside the state wide law.

Allowing for a patchwork of regulations across the state will hurt the business climate in Oregon and ultimately may have harmful impacts on employees as well. It also leaves small businesses open to the whim of the local jurisdiction who has not demonstrated any comprehensive understanding of the complexities of running a small business. Additional regulations and costs appear to be treated as "the cost of owning a small business" when in fact these costs ultimately translate into jobs or loss of jobs.

On face value it seems to be a simple request. If a state wide law passes local jurisdictions cannot have their own sick leave ordinance. Let's keep a level playing field for all small businesses in the state of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Schirmer Satre Group



Carol Schirmer
Owner

