

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees

From: Paula Fisher

Portland

Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Paula Fisher and I am the sole breadwinner of my family. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

I live in Portland, Oregon. I have lived here for the last nine years. I have worked at the same job for almost four years. I am the sole breadwinner in my family and have been for the past several years.

My paycheck is crucial to my family's survival. Even missing a few hours of work is felt at the end of the month. Having the flu and having to miss even eight hours results in decisions of what of my family's need will have to be cut at the end of the month. And, it's not clothes or entertainment but electricity or food. I have at times borrowed money from my parents to keep food on our table and I am saddened to say I haven't always been able to keep the lights on.

I have at times had to work when sick. My litmus test was: if I could get myself out of bed, while feeling quite ill, I had to go to work. I would then pretend to feel well while risking other people's health and worsening mine because the cost of staying home was too great.

With the implementation of the Portland Sick Days law I have gotten this response from my boss when I called in sick: "Your paid sick days will cover it. Stay home and rest up." That is an overwhelming relief because it means I can both put food on the table and care for myself.

Please give all Oregonians the same opportunity by passing SB454 and HB2005. Thanks you again for you time.