

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees  
From: Laura Illig, Eugene, OR  
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members:

My name is Laura Illig and I am a parent, a small business owner, and a supporter of paid sick time for all Oregon workers.

Among other things, paid sick leave is a women's issue. Our society and our economy succeed best when every citizen has an equal opportunity to participate. Yet without paid sick leave and similar pro-family policies, more than half of our talent pool is left without the chance to fully contribute and compete.

We all know that the burden of childcare continues to weigh more heavily on working mothers than on working fathers. We also know that women in Oregon on average earn a meager 79 cents for every dollar earned by men.

When we fail to support those whose place in the economy is most precarious, we fail them. By squandering women's and others' willingness to work, we handicap our collective chance at prosperity. Women and those who toil at the margins of our often brutal economy have earned our respect and deserve equal opportunity in the marketplace.

Sincerely,  
Laura Illig

