

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
From: Susan Lund
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on paid sick leave.

Until recently, I worked for the same grocery store for 15 years, and while I had some paid sick hours, I couldn't actually use them until the 3rd day that I was sick. On top of that, I had to bring in a doctor's note or else I would get in big trouble. I could not afford to lose 2 days' pay, and I certainly couldn't afford to go to the doctor on top of that. As a result, I went to work sick all the time.

When I absolutely couldn't get to work because I was so sick, and I stayed home without pay, I had to decide which bills wouldn't get paid that month. I did my best to keep it from affecting my children but I didn't always succeed.

Even though I had worked for this same employer for 15 years, I worried about being fired if I got sick. As a mother, I have had to stay home sick occasionally not only for my own sickness but also for my children's. In addition, one year my son was being bullied and I had to take time off in order to work with the school and keep him from being harmed. As a result, I took what was considered to be "too many" unpaid sick days. I was written up, and told that I was on a slippery slope and I needed to be careful. This was devastating to me. I needed my job.

Paid sick days would make a huge difference for so many people who would no longer have to go to work sick, or worry about paying their bills when they got sick, or worry about getting fired when they need to take time off to deal with their child's health. Oregonians need paid sick days. I hope you will pass this law.

Thank you,

Susan Lund