

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees

From: Ann Montague

Retired Case Manager

Salem

Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Ann Montague and I am a retired Case Manager for Disability Services. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony to you tonight. Health and safety on the job does not only mean that no workplace should be unsafe, but it also means that no worker should have to make the decision to go to work when they are sick or injured.

As a Case Manager for Disability Services for decades I have seen the result of both. For a worker who is struggling from paycheck to paycheck and has no paid sick leave, the added burden of a doctor's appointment can become a financial nightmare. Losing hours of work without pay for a doctor's appointment or treatment for an injury is a cut in pay. As workers have to make the decision to come to work sick or look forward to a smaller paycheck they often come to work which can put at risk their co-workers. In the case of a more serious illness or injury the loss of income becomes catastrophic. This also means a worker may decide to delay seeing a health care professional in which case the illness may progress to a more serious condition.

Without this legislation it is just one more onslaught against the working poor in our state.

Oregon needs legislation that will support a worker to care for themselves and their families without risking their health and the health of others.

Thank you for your time and I ask you to support SB454 and HB2005