

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Workforce, Senator Dembrow, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor, Rep. Holvey, Chair  
FROM: Jon Bartholomew, Government Relations Director, AARP Oregon  
RE: AARP Support for Paid Sick Leave legislation – SB 454 and HB 2005

AARP Oregon is pleased to offer our support for SB 454 and HB 2005, the Paid Sick Leave bills. This legislation benefits more than just the individual who receives the paid sick leave – it has positive impact for employers and consumers as well.

The positive impact is obvious for the individual who receives the paid time off. Thousands of our members, regardless of their age, work to make ends meet. Many are or will be caregiving for loved ones. Some are working beyond “retirement” age at minimum wage jobs to supplement Social Security so as to afford every day expenses. For them, taking a day off without pay can mean the ability to pay rent, pay for food, or pay for medications. Working while ill can spread illness and aggravate other chronic conditions. If an individual has a few days they can take off to recuperate or take care of an ill loved one, it can make a significant difference in their quality of life.

There are positive impacts for employers and consumers as well. Employers may experience less turnover of their best employees who otherwise might be seeking employment elsewhere with a more generous sick leave benefit. Employers may also experience more productive work days from employees who take time off to get well or provide care to loved ones. Consumers and fellow employees will be less likely to be exposed to workers who come to work ill because they feel they can’t take the time off. For vulnerable adults with compromised immune systems, this could literally be a life or death matter.

AARP Oregon thanks the sponsors for introducing this important legislation, and we urge the committee to support it.

