

February 16,2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees  
From: Carleen Reilly, Retired  
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow, Holvey, Committee Members:

My name is Carleen Reilly, an unincorporated resident in the River Road neighborhood of Eugene. I can't count on Eugene's sick leave provision to cover restaurants and grocery stores in my area. It is time to take this proposal statewide.

Health, safety and fairness are things my neighbors and I deeply value and desire. We are counting on our state legislators to advocate for us on a statewide earned sick leave proposal for all employees, for the good of all of Oregon.

When I eat out, I want to know that restaurant employees won't be working in fear of losing their jobs when they are ill or need to stay home with a sick child or aging parent. I want my grandchildren to attend schools where I know their exposure to contagious diseases will be minimized because classmates and teachers are encouraged to stay home to heal. The paid sick days proposal is reasonable, and its time has come. Because illness knows no boundaries, all employees of businesses large and small need paid sick leave.

For most of my work life, I was fortunate to have employers who provided paid sick leave. I rarely used it, but I was relieved to have it when I broke my elbow and had knee surgery. I thought this was the prevailing norm in places of employment, but I am saddened to learn that many workers don't get this basic protection. As a retiree, I now enjoy more time to travel across this great state. I want to know wherever I go in Oregon that workers are treated with dignity. I want to know that restaurant, retail and other workers are healthy when I interact with them.

Please support paid sick days as the common sense effort we need to grow a healthier, more prosperous state for everybody.

Sincerely,

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