

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
From: Michele Stranger Hunter, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Michele Stranger Hunter, and I am the Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon and Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health. We work to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive options, to increase access to comprehensive reproductive health care, and to break down barriers to health care so that all people have the opportunity to thrive.

We fully support SB454 and HB2005 because we recognize that the right to Paid Sick Days is an issue of equity, economic security, women's health, and reproductive justice.

We believe that all people, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much they earn, should have equitable access to quality, affordable health care. Therefore, we believe that all Oregon workers should have the opportunity to earn paid sick time while they work.

This is not only a matter of fairness. It is a matter of women's health and well-being. When women do not have the ability to take time off of work to visit a provider, their health suffers, and their children's health suffers. Without this economic security, women's access to health care is vulnerable and their ability to take care of themselves and their families is threatened.

As reproductive rights advocates, we know that preconception care and contraception care enable women to prevent unintended pregnancy, have healthier children, and protect their overall health. Equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care is good for Oregon women, their families, and our communities. It is imperative that women be able to take a day off of work, or even an hour or two, without the risk of losing their job to access the health care they need.

Lastly, we are not blind to who is hit the hardest. There is no coincidence that restrictions to paid sick days *and* health care have a disproportionate impact on low-income women and women of color. It is time for us to reassert our commitment to justice and fairness for all Oregonians.

All people should have the power and resources to make healthy decisions about their bodies, sexuality, and reproduction for themselves and their families without fear of discrimination, exclusion, or harm. We urge your support of SB454 and HB2005 to help make this a reality.

Sincerely,



Michele Stranger Hunter, Executive Director
NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon
Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health