

February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees  
From: Gloria Vargas, Owner & Operator, Gloria's Secret Cafe, Beaverton  
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Gloria Vargas, I own Gloria's Secret Cafe in Beaverton. Thank you for the opportunity to get my thoughts heard on this issue. I am writing today in support of HB 2005 & SB 454, creating a state-wide paid sick days standard for all employers in Oregon.

I have run my business for 12 years on my own. I started at Farmers' Markets and then became a vendor at New Seasons. I came into the restaurant business mostly by accident, I needed a bigger kitchen to keep up with the demand from New Seasons and the farmers market. I was never really planning on opening up a restaurant myself.

Now that I do have a restaurant, I've learned a lot—a lot about community. My community supports me, and I want to make sure to support them in return. I want to grow, and hire staff, but I want to do it right. I want to pay good wages and provide basic benefits like paid sick days, but in order for me to do that, my competitors, like the big chain restaurants, need to also. That's why Oregon needs a paid sick days standard like the one proposed in HB 2005 & SB 454.

Risking our customers' and the community's health, is not worth it. If employees get the chance to take care of themselves or loved ones when they are ill, it will benefit their quality of life and that of the customers they serve.

I recommend that all business owners take care of your employees, they're what helps to keep your business going. It cuts down on disease and makes life better for everyone.

Make the right choice for our community—make the right choice for Oregon. Please pass HB 2005/SB 454.

Thank you,  
Gloria Vargas  
Gloria's Secret Cafe