

February 11, 2015

Chairman Michael Dembrow  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce  
Oregon State Senate  
Salem, Oregon  
RE: SB-454 Mandatory Sick Leave

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Bryan Platt, I reside in Eagle Point, Oregon, near Medford, in Jackson County. I am writing you today as a small upholstery business owner, in continuous operation in the Medford area since 1980.

As I am unable to be in attendance at the Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, public hearing, I ask that you please enter this letter as public testimony with respect to SB-454 (and HB-2005).

I stand in opposition to this legislation. My business employs 3 full time and one part time (my wife) in our operation. We are a sole-proprietorship. We offer our employees 6 paid holidays per year as their sole benefit. Our profit margin allows for no more. With our shop rate at \$60/hour, and our employee's making about \$20/hour, each hour that an employee is not working –and is being paid – has a net cost to me in excess of \$80/hour with tax obligations (\$20+ in direct expense and \$60 in lost revenue). For one full time employee, this bill's 56 hours of paid sick time are a direct cost to me of over \$4500/year. With 3 employees this totals over \$13,500 in one year. I take home about \$45,000 per year from our upholstery operation. With the cost of this legislation, I am not inclined to stay in business – for the effort of running a full time business, and the financial responsibilities, a reduction in my income of about 1/3 is simply too much. One of my employees has been with me since 1986, another for 8 years. They will all end up unemployed.

While I doubt that this is the intention of this legislation, I have no doubt that my situation is similar to many thousands of other small business owners, in Oregon, who are making a living, but have little additional margin to cover such a dramatic expense as this bill represents.

I urge you to drop this legislation, and allow small business owners to allow the free market to dictate the parameters of the operation of their business.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Platt  
226 Entrada  
Eagle Point, Or. 97524