



February 13, 2015

Dear Senator/ Representative,

I am writing to express my concern over HB 2005 and SB 454 mandating paid sick leave. I currently employ 98 people and have a sick leave program in place that allows people to bank up to 21 days for more serious illnesses or injuries. It has been a hugely popular and has allowed people in need to continue receiving a paycheck while recovering. The major difference between ours and the proposed government program is we pay only after the first day, and only for people that are actually sick or hurt.

The proposed bills would allow employees to receive their paid days at their total discretion, for whatever reason, without having to give any notice to their employer. Being in the service industry, this would put an undue hardship on our ability to fulfill our commitments to our customers.

The second reason I oppose this is strictly from a cost standpoint. Is 2008 and 2009 so far behind us that we don't remember barely being able to financially survive and having to put personal cash infusions into our companies to keep them a float? Now we are going to be handed more expenses? We made the sacrifices to position ourselves to be financially nimble, only to be hit with government mandates to increase the costs of running our companies. Implementation of this bill would leave myself and may other companies no choice but to make cuts or changes in what I would consider a very generous and popular benefit plan, in order to keep our costs in line.

Having spoken to business owners in Multnomah County, their experience is that the days used are rarely for sick days. We need to have the ability to schedule and control our companies. I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 2005 and SB 454.

Sincerely

Jeff Robberson  
President  
Robberson Ford Sales, Inc.