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The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce (SACC)
Position on Compulsory Paid Sick Leave – House Bill 2005 / Senate Bill 454

The SACC has been in existence since 1884 to protect the basic principles on which free market enterprise was established. As such, we ask ourselves one central question when determining our position on proposed legislation:

“Will this (enter house/senate bill here) strengthen or hinder the ability of the private sector to grow and create jobs for area residents?”

The SACC opposes HB 2005 / SB 454 for the following reasons:

- HB 2005 / SB 454 quietly nullify the fundamental and historical responsibility and right of a business owner to run their organization and to offer the benefits they can afford commensurate with the human resource forces in the marketplace
- HB 2005 / SB 454 would place the entire burden of program cost on the business owner, many of whom do not offer sick leave benefits simply as a matter of affordability
- HB 2005 / SB 454 unfairly target our smallest, most vulnerable business members by requiring that all businesses provide the benefit, regardless of the number of employees
- HB2005 / SB454 do not require a reasonable employee “investment” in their job or with their current employer before eligibility to accrue and / or use paid sick time.
- HB 2005 / SB 454 will in many cases force business owners to cut other costs in order to pay for the benefit, including payroll, vacation or PTO, and potentially layoffs and hiring freezes.
- HB 2005 / SB 454 is written without reasonable, real time checks and balances that would allow a business owner to ensure that potentially costly benefits requests are legitimate before labor and productivity losses are incurred.

We realize that Compulsory Sick Leave remains a priority policy issue for many serving as part of the 2015 Legislative Assembly. The Salem Chamber would reconsider its decision to oppose HB 2005 / SB 454 if the points outlined above are addressed with amendments.

Sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

President
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce