



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon Senate Workforce Committee
Oregon House Business and Labor Committee
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County
Re: Support of SB 454 and HB 2005

February 16, 2015

Dear Chair Dembrow, Chair Holvey and Members of the Committees:

I am writing on behalf of the 86,822 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to pass both Senate Bill 454 and House Bill 2005 to create a statewide standard regarding paid sick leave.

Democrats in Lane County strongly believe it is in the public interest to ensure that a majority of workers have the basic right to earn and use paid sick time. By voting yes on these bills, you can make a strong statement that every family in Oregon deserves access to this essential benefit.

This vote is crucial because even a minor illness or injury can lead to a family economic crisis, and many employees fear discipline or termination for staying home or visiting a health care provider when sick.

The lack of access to paid sick time disproportionately affects working families in our state. Low-wage and minority workers, as well as workers in jobs with high levels of public contact, such as restaurant and child care workers, are significantly less likely to have paid sick time. When these workers work while ill, they risk spreading illnesses to coworkers and customers, as well as jeopardizing their own health. Furthermore, workers who don't earn paid sick time face impossible decisions about staying home with a sick child and risking their income or job, or sending a sick child to school and exposing classmates and school employees to illness.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to build a fairer and healthier Oregon.

Your friend,

Chris Wig
Chair
Democratic Party of Lane County

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY
Platform Committee
1/15/2015

RESOLUTION 2015.03

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County
Relating to Statewide Paid Sick Time

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Democratic Party of Lane County, according to the DPLC Platform of 2014, to “adopt consistent, minimum standards for earned sick time for the City of Eugene and statewide;” and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County has previously Resolved “That the adoption of consistent, minimum standards for paid and protected sick time promotes a sustainable, healthy, and productive workforce and a stronger overall economy. It is in the public interest to ensure that a majority of workers have the basic right to earn and use paid sick time,” and “That the DPLC will work with...our state legislators to promote a statewide sick time policy” [Resolution 2013.09]; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 454 has been introduced which “Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees,” and “Makes violation unlawful practice subject to jurisdiction of Bureau of Labor and Industries;” and

WHEREAS, Rep. Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene) has introduced House Bill 2005 which “Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees,” and “Makes violation unlawful practice subject to jurisdiction of Bureau of Labor and Industries.”

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. To endorse and support the passage of Senate Bill 454 in the Oregon Senate.

SECTION 2. To endorse and support the passage of House Bill 2005 in the Oregon House.

SECTION 3. To work alongside our Democratic legislators as they continue to advocate for workplace reforms that improve the economic situation and quality of life for working families in Oregon.

Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, January 15, 2015.

Signed:

X _____.

Chris Wig
Chair

X _____.

Celine Swenson-Harris
Secretary

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY
PLATFORM & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
11/21/2013

RESOLUTION 2013.9

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY OF OREGON

Relating to Paid & Protected Sick Time for Eugene Workers

WHEREAS, 51% of Eugene workers have no paid sick time to deal with their own and their family's health needs; and

WHEREAS, Even a minor illness or injury can lead to a family economic crisis, and many employees fear discipline or termination for staying home or visiting a health care provider when sick; and

WHEREAS, Low-wage and minority workers, as well as workers in jobs with high levels of public contact, such as restaurant and child care workers, are significantly less likely to have paid and protected sick time. When these workers work while ill, they risk spreading illnesses to coworkers and customers, as well as jeopardizing their own health. Furthermore, workers who don't earn paid or protected sick time face impossible decisions about staying home with a sick child and risking their income or job, or sending a sick child to school and exposing classmates and school employees to illness; and

WHEREAS, Paid or protected sick time enables workers to see a healthcare provider during regular hours and to obtain preventive care services, which reduces the burden on and cost of hospital emergency services. It is estimated that universal access to paid sick time would prevent approximately 34,000 emergency department visits annually in Oregon among private sector workers and their families, resulting in a health care cost reduction of about \$29 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Paid sick time is considered a standard in most workplaces worldwide and is required in every industrialized country in the world except the U.S. At least 145 of the 196 countries in the world mandate some form of paid sick time, as do the state of Connecticut and several large American cities (including Portland, New York, Seattle and San Francisco); and

WHEREAS, a paid sick time standard will reduce the competitive disadvantage that many responsible employers face when they choose to provide paid sick time to their workers.

THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the adoption of consistent, minimum standards for paid and protected sick time promotes a sustainable, healthy, and productive workforce and a stronger overall economy. It is in the public interest to ensure that a majority of workers have the basic right to earn and use paid sick time, and all workers should have access to protected sick time, even if it is not required that they be paid for that time.

SECTION 2. That the DPLC calls upon the Eugene City Council to draft a citywide paid and protected sick time policy for public consideration.

SECTION 3. That the DPLC will work with the “Everybody Benefits Coalition of Oregon” and our state legislators to promote a statewide sick time policy.

**RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY,
ASSEMBLED IN EUGENE, OREGON, NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

Signed:

X _____
Julie Fahey
Chair

X _____
Andrew S. Becker
Secretary
