

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission for Women**  
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Testimony in Support of HB 2600  
March 6, 2015, House Health Committee

Chair Greenlick; Co-Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse; and Representatives Buehler, Clem, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, and Weidner.

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB 2600.

The OCFW believes that health care access is one of the leading indicators of success for Oregon families and that assuring health care coverage while Oregon's hard working parents are taking family leave is a critical component.

HB 2600 helps to close potential health care coverage gaps while parents are taking Family Leave time with their newborns or other family obligations. It assures there is no disruption of health coverage at a time that families are depending on it the most. It is important to note that when parents take family leave, it benefits not only their nuclear family, but often an extended family as well.

Nearly 2/3 of mothers in Oregon are the breadwinners or co-breadwinners for their families, and over 73% of Oregon's moms are in the workforce, according to the BOLI Oregon Civil Rights Council's 2014 Pay Inequality Study. The study goes on to note that Oregon parents in general are more likely to be working than people without children under 18.

The Oregon Commission for Women urges an Aye vote on HB 2600.  
Sincerely,

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

**ORCommission for Women**

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