

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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Testimony in Support of HB 2600
May 6, 2015, 1 pm, Hearing Room C
Senate Workforce Committee

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thatcher, Senate Democratic Leader
Rosenbaum, and Senators Gelser and Knopp:

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

OR Commission for Women

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