



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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The Oregon Business Association appreciates the efforts of the legislature on Senate Bill 454 A

The Oregon Business Association has been tracking an unprecedented number of bills directed at employers and their relationships with employees. This legislature has taken a keen interest in this arena bolstering employment statutes that were already the most stringent laws in America. Our members take pride in the compensation and benefits they provide employees as those workplaces are productive and employee retention rates are very high.

We would like to thank the sponsors of SB 454 A for meeting with us early and often in drafting another regulation on businesses in Oregon as we will become the fourth state with mandatory paid sick leave. Our members developed a set of four policy changes we needed in this legislation to make it more workable for Oregon's businesses. The authors have largely adopted those amendments. They are:

1. Policy should be statewide
2. Accommodate small employers
3. Exempt existing PTO policies
4. Clarify definitions, according to Oregon Family Leave Act

We would again acknowledge the process that led to SB 454 A before you today - it was good!

We also hope this is the end of legislative efforts in this arena. Oregon has workplace laws and rules unlike any state in the nation. With a public pension obligation unlike most states in the nation and expiring health care stimulus we will need extended economic growth unlike anywhere in America to fund our education, healthcare and public safety systems. We would ask our elected leaders to turn their collective energy into incenting business growth and keeping this economic recovery rolling into 2017 and beyond.

From the Desk of
Senator Chris Edwards

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