



FROM THE DESK OF
REP. BARBARA SMITH WARNER

Barbara Smith Warner

June 12, 2015

SB 454 – Paid Sick Leave

Dear Members of the Oregon House,

We all get sick. We all deserve time to get better.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555 represents over 20,000 workers in Oregon and Southwestern Washington. Our membership is comprised of workers in retail, manufacturing, health care, and many other industries. We are a diverse group that has grown into being the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. Local 555 has a rich history dating back to 1936. Our Local is chartered by the UFCW International Union, joining us with over 1.3 million workers across the United States and Canada.

UFCW Local 555 cares about the health and welfare of our members and our customers. We work hard to provide for our families and serve the many wonderful communities throughout Oregon. **We urge you to support Paid Sick Leave SB 454.**

Too many low-wage workers in Oregon lack a single day of paid sick leave. They go to work sick because they cannot afford to miss a day. SB 454 will allow workers to earn sick time while they work and to be able to utilize their sick pay the very first day they are sick. While some employers offer sick pay, including many in the grocery industry, often these employers will not permit workers to start using sick time until the third day they are sick. Over 40% of these workers report going to work sick – risking further spread of illness within our communities.

We all get sick. Employees should not be forced to risk their health and their livelihood – workers should stay home when ill. UFCW Local 555 feels sick leave is an important benefit for all. **Please support SB 454.**

Jeff Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer
UFCW Local 555