



February 16, 2015

Members of the Committee,

The Fair Shot For All Coalition advocated for the passage of the Paid Sick Leave policy in 2015 and fought against several attempts to weaken and kill the bill. It is unfortunate to see those attempts once again in SB 1594.

Before the sick days policy went into effect, too many workers faced the tough choice between their job and their family's health. Working Oregonians faced the impossible decision of going to work sick—or sending an ill child to school—or staying home, losing pay and risking their jobs.

We oppose this SB 1594 because it allows an employer to deduct the value of sick time from an employee's overall compensation package on public works projects. The bill would take away a right that workers on public works projects have already obtained and more than that it goes **against the very purpose of paid sick days.**

A core principal of our coalition is that we don't believe anyone should be thrown under the bus or left out of workplace protections and benefits. This bill targets construction workers and would mean that those workers would lose these important protections. These hardworking people could be penalized several times over the course of a year and have sick time deducted by multiple different employers even if they never get to use that sick time. That is wrong.

Our coalition will continue to stand strong against any rollbacks of this important protection that was thoroughly debated and decided last year. We will continue to advocate for the rights and protections of all workers.