



To: Senate Committee on Workforce and General Government
From: Emily McLain, Basic Rights Oregon
Re: Opposition to SB 1594
Date: February 16, 2016

Chair Dembrow members of the Committee,

My name is Emily McLain and I am here on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon. Basic Rights Oregon was proud to support the paid sick leave bill in the last legislative session. We worked hard with our partners to advocate for this critical and needed policy.

As the state's largest LGBTQ political advocacy organization, Basic Rights is working to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Oregonians experience equality. We speak on behalf of Oregonians living pay check to pay check and for whom paid sick leave is a life line.

All too often workers were going to work sick because they couldn't afford to take the time off or they feared retaliation – even losing their job - if they missed even one day of work because of illness. This law is meant to ensure that workers are able to take paid time off when they or a family member are ill. This as an important public health measure and is a basic right that all workers should be entitled to.

SB 1594 represents a substantive policy change and an unnecessary roll back to Oregon's historic paid sick time law that hurts workers and takes money out of their pockets. We are opposed to any changes to the new sick time law that roll back protections for workers. We are opposed to SB 1594 because it rolls back paid sick time and forces employees on public works projects to pay for the cost of their own sick time.

Paid sick time should be exactly that; paid time off for when an employee or their family member is sick. We oppose any roll back to the new paid sick leave legislation.

Emily McLain, Basic Rights Oregon