



March 8, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce,

On behalf of the Fair Shot for All Coalition, we respectfully request that you oppose SB 779.

Our coalition and Oregonians across the state worked hard during the 2015 session to pass a strong and inclusive paid sick time law for Oregon workers. This law is meant to ensure that workers are able to take paid time off when they or a family member are ill. This is an important public health measure and as a basic right that all workers should be entitled to.

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. These workers were disproportionately women and people of color.

SB 779 represents a substantive policy change and unnecessary rollback to Oregon's historic paid sick time law that hurts workers. Currently, employers with 10+ employees must offer paid sick time (6+ employees inside the Portland city limits) and unpaid sick time for employers below that employee threshold. The employer size is the key determining factor in whether paid or unpaid protections exist.

Current law already exempts the parents, spouse and children of business owners from the definition of "employee" in the sick time law and those family members are exempt from both sick time protections and the overall employee count. SB 779 seeks to exempt the parents, spouse and children of LLC and LLP partners from the overall employee-count threshold for purposes of determining if paid or unpaid sick time applies to employees. If implemented, SB 779 would mean that some businesses may suddenly drop to unpaid sick time if they employ a parent, spouse, or children of one of LLC and LLP partners. This has the impact of taking paid sick time away from workers who are currently eligible for and receive paid sick time under Oregon's current law.

In addition to the above concerns, we see this legislation as unfairly targeting agricultural workers who appear to be the class of workers most impacted by this proposed change. We see this as discriminatory and damaging to some of the state's most vulnerable workers and a group of workers who most need access to paid sick time.

The Fair Shot for All Coalition is opposed to any changes to the new sick time law that roll back protections for workers. If even a single worker loses access to paid sick time, we see that as too many. Please join us in opposing SB 779.



ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot for All is a united movement of more than 30 racial justice organizations, community groups and labor unions fighting together for racial, gender and economic justice. Our priorities tackle critical barriers to safety, health and security and continue our fight to secure a fair shot for every Oregonian. We are standing up for women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families. Together, we are sending a message loud and clear: every Oregonian needs real opportunity and a fair shot at a secure future.

Fair Shot for All includes AFT Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), Oregon National Organization for Women, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Student Association, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Rural Organizing Project, Sankofa Collective Northwest, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Unite Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the YWCA.