



March 8, 2017

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

Fr: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State council

Re: Opposition to SB 779

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce,

On behalf of Service Employees International Union Oregon State Council, I request that you oppose SB 779 to rollback paid sick days coverage in Oregon. SEIU represents over 60,000 workers in the state of Oregon from Bend to Bandon, Lake Oswego to Lakeview, Astoria to Arlington and everywhere in between. Members of our union prioritized passing a paid sick leave law for all Oregonians in 2015 so that more working people can balance the complex needs of work and family life.

We spoke out in favor of this bill because it was a smart economic decision and the right moral one. We believe that something like sick leave reflects our values as a state, workers should not be so concerned about the economic well-being that they cannot take time to care for themselves or a loved one.

We are opposed to any changes to the new sick time law, like SB 779, that eliminate paid sick leave for workers in Oregon. As written, it appears that this legislation could have the unintended consequence of exempting many workers from paid sick time. The ability for "LLC" members and parents, spouse or children to be removed from the threshold for paid time could lead to many employers dropping below the threshold. We are not certain that the bill as written would give enough protections for workers.

We hope that you will join us in opposing SB 779 to *ensure that all workers who currently have access to paid sick time will continue to in the future.*

Thank you,

*Matt Swanson*  
*Executive Director*

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