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TO: Chair Taylor
Vice-Chair Knopp
Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

FR: Graham Trainor, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: *Oregon AFL-CIO Opposition to SB 779, Efforts to Roll-back Paid Sick Days Law*

March 8, 2017

My name is Graham Trainor representing the over 300,000 working Oregonians of the Oregon AFL-CIO. Thanks for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to SB 779 and all efforts to undermine the important worker protections, like the paid sick days law, passed in the last few years.

The State Federation of Labor has been the long-term advocate for greater worker protections and an economy that works for ALL Oregonians. As this Committee knows, we were also part of the Fair Shot Coalition and Everybody Benefits Coalition that came together and worked hard to pass a strong and inclusive paid sick time law for Oregon workers. This law is an important standard and is meant to ensure that workers can take paid time off when they or a family member are ill.

With the very real threats to the basic health and well-being of our communities at the national level, we should be working together to protect and expand the very basic rights we have just achieved here in our state, and we should not be discussing how to roll them back. More specifically, and as an advocate for ALL workers in Oregon, SB 779 unfairly targets agricultural workers who appear to be the class of workers most impacted by this proposed change. We see this as an unacceptable, discriminatory and damaging policy to some of the state's most vulnerable workers who were included in the original paid sick time law.

The Oregon AFL-CIO is opposed to any changes to the new sick time law, like SB 779, that roll back or eliminate sick time protections for any worker in Oregon. No worker should lose a single hour of paid sick time coming out of the 2017 Legislative Session.

We strongly urge your opposition to SB 779, and any effort to roll back critical worker protections, at a time that low-wage workers need a strong safety net and set of protections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue and its impact to working Oregonians.