



1500 NE Irving Street, Suite 585 | Portland, OR 97232
tel: 503.236.5573 | fax: 503.239.9441 | www.jwjpdx.org

March 23, 2017

Chair Lively and members of the House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee:

On behalf of Portland Jobs with Justice, I respectfully request your support for HB 3087, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. Portland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of over 120 faith, labor, community, and student organizations, as well as thousands of individuals taking action for workers rights and economic justice through an intersectional racial and gender justice lens. We work to defend the rights of all working people, and to preserve civil and economic rights for all members of the community, and we advocate for the right to a decent standard of living, the right to job security, and the right to organize.

Right now, only 13% of American workers have access to paid family and medical leave, and 40% of American workers lack even unpaid leave from work because of gaps in coverage under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The same is true for Oregon workers under the Oregon Family Leave Act.

The unfortunate result is that even though they've barely recovered from childbirth, much less had sufficient time to bond with their new child and adjust to parenthood, 25% of new mothers return to work only two weeks after giving birth. Many families spend their entire savings, go into debt, or face bankruptcy in order to cover unpaid time away from work during critical life events like the birth of a new child.

Statistics like these show how far we have to go in order to ensure that Oregon families have the resources they need, such as paid family and medical leave, to be stable and successful. Whether it's the birth of a child, the serious illness of a spouse, or the end-of-life for a parent - we all need time to care for our families. Caring for a family is important work, and shouldn't mean compromising our economic security. This is why Portland Jobs with Justice supports the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 3087, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act. We urge your yes vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D'Pei Wu', with a large, looping flourish extending to the right.

D'Pei Wu

Executive Director

Portland Jobs with Justice