



March 23, 2017

To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports

From: Health Care for All Oregon

RE: Support of HB 3087- Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act

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Mission

To work for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high quality, publicly funded universal healthcare system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States.

Chair Lively, Members of the Committee and staff,

Health Care for All Oregon, as a member organization of Oregon Health Equity Alliance, supports HB 3087, which seeks to create a family and medical leave insurance program to provide covered employees with a portion of their wages while on family medical or military leave.

Health Care for All Oregon is a statewide coalition of 120 organizations, 150 endorsing businesses and nearly 20,000 health care advocates dedicated to the creation of universal, publicly funded healthcare in Oregon. Until we reach that ideal, we support efforts to increase access, reduce cost and improve the efficacy of healthcare in Oregon.

Universal access to healthcare, which we are still fighting for in Oregon and America, is only part of the battle. If family members are unable to take time off to care for a sick child or aging parents, they are unable to play a key role in their loved ones' recuperation.

HB 3087 is not a tax based solution, but a reasonably financed insurance program, capped at 0.5 % of a worker's wages, that will make all the difference in the world for thousands of Oregon employees. It will reduce government spending on public assistance and increase labor force participation, which will bring associated economic gains, generating a larger tax base and increased consumer spending.

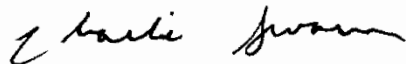
All employees working in Oregon will be covered as long as they are working and contributing to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund. Those who are self-employed can opt in to the insurance program as well.

HB 3087 is a win-win for workers, business and the health of communities throughout Oregon.

Again, Health Care for All Oregon urges your support for HB 3087 to bring a basic important benefit to Oregon employees enjoyed by workers in all the world's advanced economies.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Charlie Swanson
Legislative Committee Chair
Health Care for All Oregon-Action



Jim Robison
President
Health Care for All Oregon-Action



Benjamin Gerritz
Vice-President
Health Care for All Oregon



Lee Mercer
President
Health Care for All Oregon