



March 23rd, 2017

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Lively and members of the committee,

The Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) is a group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates who are dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women. Together, the Co-Chairs of the OWHWA strongly support HB 3087 – the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act.

Women continue to provide the majority of unpaid family care within the home in order to take care of a child, or deal with a serious medical issue for a family member or parent. At the same time, in many households, women serve as the co-breadwinner. As a result, time-off leads to economic loss, and contributes to the wealth and wage gaps. The need for the FAMLI Act is great, especially among women, workers of color, unmarried workers, and low wage workers. This legislation will also benefit male workers, as men are more likely to take leave when a paid leave option is available. This will help to ensure that men also feel that they have an opportunity to bond with their children or offer important support to family members experiencing illness. Workers and families in our state deserve the stability that the FAMLI Act gives, and employers will benefit from less turnover and a more loyal and supported workforce.

The Co-Chairs of the OWHWA believe that all Oregonians deserve the freedom to take care of their families should the need arise, without jeopardizing their job security. The OWHWA appreciates the committee's thoughtful consideration of this bill, and urges your support of HB 3087 – the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act.

Sincerely,

The OWHWA Co-Chairs:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Steiner Hayward".

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senate District 17

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karin Power".

Representative Karin Power
House District 41

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Taylor".

Senator Kathleen Taylor
Senate District 21

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alyssa Keny-Guyer".

Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer
House District 46