

March 28, 2017

To: Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports

From: Bryan Platt, small business owner, Medford

RE: HB-3087 Paid Family Leave

Dear Committee Members:

I am a small business owner, with 37 years of continuous operation in the Medford area. I am writing to ask you not to support HB-3087.

Owning a small business is never easy, but among the most difficult hurdles to climb is losing an employee for a period of time – regardless of circumstances. With only 4 employees, and each of them having a very specific skillset, any loss of productivity has the effect of a 25% reduction in business income. If one of my employees takes a week of vacation, that entire months profits are lost. With 4 employees, it is obvious how difficult time off is for my business and my businesses' profitability.

The idea that an employee can be allowed 12 weeks of time off – notwithstanding the direct cost to my business in taxes - would pretty much take any incentive I have to remain in business away. The loss of income in a small margin business like the upholstery business cannot be absorbed. And because our competition is so much the typical 'mom and pop' types, we have no room for additional price increases to cover the loss of income. Additionally, the availability of skilled upholsterers is nil, so I do not have the option of a temp service to fill in for a missing employee.

This bill is literally a matter of the life or death of my business and the livelihood of 4 families.

I urge you NOT to support this bill.

Bryan Platt

Owner, Valley Vinyl

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