

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Walsh.

I am writing because I strongly support the FAMILI Equity Act, and I urge you to vote YES on HB 3031.

I support HB 3031 based on my belief in basic human rights and because this bill will help all Oregonians. I believe strongly in the need for universal paid family and medical leave policies because they have the unique potential to make our society and economy more equitable and productive.

In my last job, I took paid family leave on three occasion--twice for the birth of my children and once to care for my elderly mother who had a stroke. If I had not been given paid leave, I would have been forced to find resources to cover care for my family members. I honestly don't know how I would have found those resources. This is a dilemma that countless Oregonians face and that differentiate between those with privilege and those without.

Please pay attention to the diverse coalition of progressive social service agencies that support HB 3031. This powerful cohort is committed to social justice and fights for the most underserved Oregonians. I stand with them and urge you to act now.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Deborah Walsh