

March 25, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee

From: Fred H. Coleman

Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fred Coleman and I'm here tonight with Planned Parenthood of Oregon and I live in Eugene, Oregon.

After my wife, Amy, gave birth, she immediately had to go back into work. Neither Amy or I were in a place to take time off from work. At the time, my full time job was not able to pay rent. Our insurance was costing us \$2,500 a month. Due to this high expense, my wife and I were unable to support our household during this difficult time, and struggled to feed our children and take care of our family. After Amy gave birth, she still had to work since I was only making \$17 an hour and paying insurance/taxes. She had to take our daughter to work with her when she was house cleaning since I did not have time to take care of her due to work and inability to afford a sitter. This was extremely hard on our marriage and overall well-being as a family. I believe that my family's situation exemplifies working people who evidently oppose the popular misconception that people take advantage of food stamps and welfare. In contrast, we are hardworking people who need to support our family under life conditions that hinder our ability to make that possible under our financial circumstances. I believe that America should use European countries as economic models since they provide their citizens with paid maternal and medical leave, unlike ours.