

March 25, 2019

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

From: Emily Garofalo

Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Garofalo and I live in Portland, OR.

In the United States one in four mothers return to work within 2 weeks of giving birth. No medical provider would give the okay for a mother to return to work at two weeks. We should be embarrassed and heartbroken by this statistic. I was lucky to be able to cobble together 3 months to stay home with my daughter. We relied on short-term disability leave, I used up all of my sick time and PTO and to cover the rest my family took out extra student loans that we may never be able to repay. Being able to care for your newborn child and for the body to physically recover shouldn't have to come down to luck or the privileges that someone holds. The time after birth is crucial for bonding, attachment and recovery. I want all parents to have this right!

Sincerely,

Emily Garofalo