

March 25, 2019

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

From: Leora Werner

Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leora Werner and I live in Portland, OR.

I support the FAMILI Equity Act because I had to take unpaid time off for the birth of my daughter. I took 12 weeks unpaid FMLA. Then I stayed home for another month by working from home - I was lucky enough to be able to extend my time at home because of my employer offering a flexible work schedule.

I feel fortunate that my family was able to make it work for me to stay home after my daughter was born, but even I don't feel like it was enough time. At 4 months old, your baby is still so small and as a mom, you are still very much trying to adjust to your new baby and their needs. Going back to work so soon was really hard. Also, your child is only a baby once and it's hard to feel like you have to miss out on this special time because of work. Also it takes a while to recover physically after childbirth and doctors agree that 6 months recovery time is the minimum of what's needed. I would have really liked to stay home for 6 months, but I would be unable to do that without getting paid at 100% of my wages.

Sincerely,

Leora Werner