



March 25, 2019
House Committee on Business and Labor
Testimony of Aubrey Daquiz

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Barreto, Vice-Chair Bynum, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

Thank you for having me here today. My name is Aubrey Daquiz. I am a Portland resident, and a member of APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, and a volunteer with Forward Together. I am here to support House Bill 3031, including updating the definition of family to cover extended family and relationships that are “equivalent to a family relationship.” All families need paid family and medical leave to thrive, regardless of who they call family.

I am the child of Filipino immigrants who made incredible sacrifices so that my siblings and I could have more opportunities. I recently lost both of my parents to cancer over the span of three years. During that time, I cobbled together my limited leave to take them to appointments and help care for them, as I still had to pay rent, bills, and student loans. If Oregon had a law like the FAMILI Equity Act, I could have spent more precious time with my parents in their final days.

Without our parents, my brothers don't have anyone who qualifies as family to legally take leave to care for them. This is because the current federal Family and Medical Leave Act's definition of family is outdated and excludes even siblings. Our parents' cancers could be hereditary, and we are the only ones left to care for each other, so I know that I need access to paid family and medical leave with an inclusive definition of family.

My family situation is not unique. The 2010 census found that nearly 80% of Americans have a broader range of family: our families are blended, multi-generational, or chosen, and may include adult siblings, or unmarried partners. This is particularly true for families of color, immigrant families, and LGBTQ families. The definition of family in policy must be updated to include families like mine.

I didn't have paid family leave when I needed it to care for my parents, and I will need it again for my siblings and other family. I urge the House Business and Labor Committee to vote in support of HB3031, FAMILI Equity Act with an inclusive definition of family. Families like mine can no longer afford to be left behind.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Daquiz