

March 25, 2019

RE: Support for HB 3031 – FAMILI Equity Act

Chairs Taylor and Barker and members of Workforce and Business and Labor,

Children First for Oregon represents the interests of Oregon's almost 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive.

The first few weeks of a child's life are critical for their development and future success. Given the majority of children born in the United States are born to working parents, many new parents face a choice with no good options. They must either leave their child to someone else during these first critical weeks of life or suffer severe financial hardship. Without Paid Family Leave provided by HB 3031, either available option creates negative ramifications for the long term health of the child.

In the 2019 Children's Agenda, more than 35 organizations registered their support for Paid Family Leave, making it one of the most popular items in this edition. While paid family leave will increase participation in the workforce and bring Oregon closer to successful programs around the world, we believe the benefits to Oregon's youngest are sufficient reason to support implementation of Paid Family Leave.

Children First for Oregon urges your support for HB 3031.

James Barta
Strategic Director

Together we can build an Oregon where all children thrive.