

March 25, 2019

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

From: Lacey Beaty

Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chairs Taylor and Barker and Members of the Committees,

Like most of you here today, I wear many hats. I am the City Council President in Beaverton, Director of School-Based Health Centers at Virginia Garcia Memorial health Center, wife to an active duty military officer and as of 20 months ago a mom to a beautiful daughter.

I wanted to talk to you directly so that you don't only hear from lobbying groups that represent cities. I need this topic to have a more direct representation. As you are all well aware, being elected is a part time job and it is difficult to stay on top of every lobbying effort, however I can tell you that many/most of us across the state individually and collectively believe in paid family leave. I encourage you to reach out to your local representatives and ask them directly. Paid family leave will make our communities safer, ensuring that hard working people like our police officers have time off to address family needs means they can remain focused at work and not worrying about what's happening at home. Taking care of our employee's means that our community is receiving their very best and we are setting an example to all businesses.

Paid family leave became very personal for me over the past two years. I experienced pre-term labor and lost our son in the third trimester. I went through birth and all that comes with it, however when we left the hospital, we left alone. It was the worst experience of my life, I had to use a large amount of my sick time to physically and emotionally recover. About a year later came our rainbow baby, she is my pride and joy, however getting her here was no easy task. I had a very high risk pregnancy that required weekly visits to the doctor and periods of bed rest. I worked through a lot, I worked when I was sick, and I worked when I was putting myself and my baby at risk, so I could save the sick time I had in order to offset the three months of unpaid leave after childbirth. When I returned to work three months later, I was not prepared for the emotional turmoil of working with a young infant at home. I came back with just a couple of days of sick time left. Given my husband's demanding military career, even the most routine checkups often default to me. Not to mention that children get sick...a lot.

While I have focused on the birth part of family leave, I am glad you are addressing end of life care. I, like many others, am part of the sandwich generation who will be taking care of both our parents and children at the same time. Knowing that I am protected with pay and job security will allow me to be the best mother and daughter I can possibly be. So many people talk about keeping family first and passing this bill will help to enable that we can all do just that.

As a public health professional and elected official who interacts with our community every day, please take this bold leap to lead the nation in ensuring Oregon families are taken care of.

Sincerely,

Lacey Beaty