



Date: March 25th, 2019
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Kelli Horvath
Re: Support for HB 3031

Dear Chair Barker and members of the committee:

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 Oregon students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty and staff from across the state.

OEA supports HB 3031 because all Oregonians—including educators—need better access to paid family and medical leave insurance. Across the state of Oregon, educators' access to paid family and medical leave varies greatly. However, the need is consistent. Whether welcoming a new child to the family, recovering from a life-changing medical event, or taking time to care for a loved one in a time of need, the ability of educators across Oregon to take the time they need to give or get care depends greatly on their contract, collective bargaining agreements, and personal circumstances.

Many educators—especially those who are early career educators—already work second jobs just to make ends meet. They work hard not only to support their students to succeed—but to support themselves financially. HB 3031 would allow all Oregonians, including educators, to take time off to get or give necessary care without threatening their ability to stay afloat financially. By ensuring that educators have the support they need to care for themselves or their loved ones, the state will help those educators to be even more successful in the classroom.

A paid family and medical leave insurance program in Oregon is long overdue. Educators care for students across the state every day and see the value of this care. It is time for Oregon to place the same value on their ability—and the ability of hundreds of thousands of other workers across Oregon—to care for themselves and their loved ones, and pass HB 3031.

Sincerely,

Kelli Horvath
Government Relations
Oregon Education Association