

June 11, 2019

RE: Support for HB 2005 – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Chair Holvey and Representatives,

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 2005. 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 and Medical Leave provided by HB 2005, 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 and Medical Leave. While this program will increase participation in the workforce and improve the lives of workers throughout the state, we believe the benefits to Oregon's youngest are sufficient reason to support HB 2005.

Children First for Oregon urges your support for HB 2005.

James Barta  
Strategic Director