



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

Chair Holvey
House Committee on Rules
900 Court St., State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

June 11, 2019

My name is Elvyss Argueta, Political and Electoral Strategist for SEIU 503. Thank you on behalf of the over 80,000 workers represented by SEIU Local 49 & 503 and the opportunity to voice support for HB 2005-3.

Our workers, their families, and all Oregonians will benefit from Paid Family and Medical Leave, because it would give them the ability to take care of themselves and their families when an unforeseen medical need arises or when bonding with a new member of their family. Many families across Oregon have to struggle to be able to help a loved one in a time of need, especially as older Oregonians age and require more support, many are going without the high-quality care they need and family caregivers face emotional and financial strain. Paid family and medical leave will allow more Oregonians to support aging loved ones and be there during a significant life event, like the end of a parent's life.

We urge this body to support HB 2005-3, thereby creating the most progressive paid family and medical leave insurance program in the United States. SEIU is committed to a just and vibrant society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and where all people can provide for themselves and their families. HB 2005-3 upholds those values and the values of our coalition, by allowing them access to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave, 2 weeks of paid leave for a pregnancy related condition, and up to 4 weeks of unpaid leave to welcome a new child, aid a loved one with a serious illness or injury, or get care for themselves. HB 2005-3 is incredibly important to Oregonians, because it provides income replacement sufficient to allow workers to take the time they need without jeopardizing their ability to afford basic living necessities, like housing and food.

SEIU is excited that you have an opportunity to provide this essential benefit to all Oregonians. I hope you are too. We urge your support for HB 2005-3.

Sincerely,
Elvyss Argueta
Political & Electoral Strategist
SEIU Oregon