

March 25, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee
From: Adam Glickfield
Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adam Glickfield and I live in Portland.

I am the owner of a small animation studio in Portland, and have been at the helm of this business since 2012. At the start of 2015, I began to feel unwell, though told myself that I could "tough it out". Throughout the spring and summer of that year, my symptoms continued to increase and amplify, and I began to see specialists on a regular basis. From my initial MRI and CAT scan, to neuro-ophthalmologists and dietitians, my health care team was exploring every symptom and possibility. While I was not only terrified about the outcome of these visits, I was also encountering the everyday stresses of owning and operating my company. I spent countless hours lying awake at night and thinking about how close I was to my breaking point, rather than getting the rest that my overworked body surely needed. After months of misdiagnosis and fear, I was finally able to confirm my illness with my physician, and find treatment that works for me.

Now it is 2019, and I am managing both my health and my business, but know that there is the possibility that I could come down with another illness, and I don't know if I would be able to continue working through the same way that I did the last time. Does this mean that I would lose the studio that I have been building for close to a decade because I need time to focus on and manage my health and recovery?

I am supporting Paid Family Medical Leave because folks like me shouldn't have to live in fear for both their health and their livelihood. If House Bill 3031 had been enacted when I was sick, I could have hired another person to manage my business in my absence, greatly reducing the stressors that I was dealing with, and possibly resulting in a more swift diagnosis and treatment. Everyone in Oregon will experience a serious illness, whether it be themselves or loved ones, and I want to ensure that they get the opportunity to focus on what matters most at that time: recovery.

Sincerely,

Adam Glickfield