



Testimony in support of House Bill 3031

Caitlin Reid, RN

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Chair Barker and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 3031, the FAMLII Equity Act. My name is Caitlin Reid and I'm a Registered Nurse at OHSU in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. Every day I see families desperately in need of a robust and comprehensive Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

In my work in the Cardiovascular ICU, we see many patients experiencing chest pain, heart attacks, aortic aneurysms, hypertensive urgency, the need for emergent open-heart surgery, along with routine cases. Each admission carries with it the potential for significant complications.

As a regional referral center, a large number of our cases come from around the state as referring facilities often do not have the resources to provide the needed care. However, I too often see families who cannot afford to leave their jobs to travel across the state to be with their family member in their time of need.

Just last week I had a patient sick with a septic infection from a growth on one of their valves. They were life flighted to OHSU from Southern Oregon for evaluation and treatment. I had learned in the report that his wife and children could not afford to travel to Portland due to missed work, and on his arrival to my unit, he was increasingly distraught upon learning this. In some cases, this can delay vital medical decisions because family members are not reachable, due to work, to discuss care with the patient's medical team. In a time where someone's life is quite literally on the line, I believe we can do more to support patients and their families in order to be together.

Having Paid Family and Medical Leave in Oregon would enable families to be together during times of medical crisis without worrying about being able to pay their rent or support their family and would allow them to adequately prepare for their return after the hospital stay.

Oregon families enter into crisis every day. It's time that we help support them by passing Paid Family and Medical Leave, which is why I hope you will support House Bill 3031.