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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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**Elizabeth Edwards, Director**  
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March 25, 2019

Representative Jeff Barker  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3031 and support for a statewide paid family medical leave program

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports creating a statewide family and medical leave program. In 2016, the City of Portland passed an ordinance allowing all City employees to take up to six weeks of paid parental leave when welcoming a new child into their families whether by birth, adoption, or foster care.

The majority of people in Oregon do not have paid family and medical leave to take time away from work to welcome a new child, take care of a seriously ill family member, or to recover from a serious illness or injury themselves. Nearly a quarter of new mothers return to work within two weeks of having a baby to support their family. When non-birth parents take leave, research shows the positive long-term effects on the parent-child bond, increased parity in parental responsibilities, and direct caregiving.

A statewide paid family and medical leave program would provide a way for employees to receive partial income replacement when they utilize family or medical leave. The City of Portland supports legislation to increase access to strong paid family and medical leave policies.

Sincerely,  
Stacy Cowan  
City of Portland  
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