

June 20, 2019

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*From the desk of  
Representative Courtney Neron*  
*C. Neron*

Oregon Legislative Assembly Members,

As organizations who represent educators across the state who support students to succeed at Oregon schools, community colleges, and universities, we applaud the hard work of the legislature to negotiate the strong paid family and medical leave insurance policy that is included in HB 2005.

Oregonians—including educators, students, and their families—would benefit from better access to paid family and medical leave insurance. Whether welcoming a new child to the family, recovering from a life-changing medical event, or taking time to care for a loved one, the need is consistent.

Many educators—especially those who are early in their careers—already work second jobs just to make ends meet. They work hard not only to support their students to succeed, but to support themselves financially. HB 2005 will allow all Oregonians to take time off to get or give necessary care without threatening their ability to stay afloat financially.

By ensuring that all educators have the support they need to care for themselves or their loved ones, the state will help them be even more successful in the classroom. Students whose parents or family members need to take family or medical leave will also benefit directly from the policy as it will ease the financial strain that too many families experience in the event of a leave of absence from work. Improving Oregon families' ability to have financial stability during a time when they need to care for themselves or their loved ones will mean students can arrive to the classroom with one less thing at home to worry about so they can focus on learning and achieving their greatest potential.

A paid family and medical leave insurance program in Oregon is long overdue. Educators who care for students across the state every day see the value of this care. It is time for Oregon to place the same value on their ability—and the ability of hundreds of thousands of other workers across Oregon—to care for themselves and their loved ones by passing HB 2005. We thank legislators for their thorough and thoughtful work to develop this policy, and we stand in support of the bill.

Respectfully,

