



FAMILY FORWARD  
OREGON

*Smart policies for today's families.*

## Family Forward Oregon Encourages Support for Senate Bill 588

When this legislature passed a paid sick time law six years ago, it took a major step toward ensuring that many workers in our state have access to paid sick days. However, a considerable portion of Oregon's construction industry still lacks access to this important benefit because of language in the original bill. Senate Bill 588 is a common-sense solution that would ensure that these workers are no longer excluded.

**Basic access to paid sick leave has a tangible impact on the health of a worker, their family, and the overall health of our community.**

- Workers without sick leave are more likely to delay medical care when they are ill<sup>1</sup>, often leading to more serious and costly conditions over time. And alarmingly, a construction worker without paid sick leave is 21% more likely to experience a non-fatal jobsite injury than one with paid sick time<sup>2</sup>.
- Parents without paid sick leave have been found to be twice as likely to send a sick child to school. In contrast, when parents are able to care for their children at home, sick children get better sooner and prevent the potential spread of illness to their classmates<sup>3</sup>.

**Lack of access to paid sick time for our essential workforce has become a more intensified safety and public health concern amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Research has shown that access to paid sick leave has helped to stem the spread of COVID-19. One study found that states where workers gained access to paid sick leave because of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act were able to prevent 400 confirmed cases per state per day.<sup>4</sup>

**Paid sick leave benefits businesses.**

- When sick workers are able to stay home and take care of themselves they recover more quickly and lessen the spread of illnesses, making their workplace healthier. Additionally, employers in jurisdictions where employees have access to paid sick time have seen growth to their businesses and no negative impact on profitability<sup>5</sup>.

**Women still hold a disproportionate amount of family caregiving responsibilities compared to men.**

- This means women are more likely to both need sick time for themselves but also to care for sick children and other sick family members. As this sector works to attract and retain more women in building and construction trades jobs, it is essential that they are able to access this critical protection; one that often makes the difference in keeping a job while also caring for a family.

Having access to paid sick time is a critical equity issue. This bill closes gaps in previous legislation, ensuring more of us can prosper, take care of our families, and keep our jobs.

*From the desk of* **We urge your "aye" vote on Senate Bill 588**  
*Senator Kayse Jama*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0965>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3482022/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/coronavirus-puts-a-spotlight-on-paid-leave-policies/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00863>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/economic-justice/paid-sick-days/paid-sick-days-good-for-business-and-workers.pdf>