



**Testimony on in Support of SB 588**

Joe Baessler

Associate Director Oregon AFSCME

February 4, 2021

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 588. My name is Joe Baessler and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Oregon AFSCME.

Oregon AFSCME supports SB 588 because it represents a common-sense solution for helping to ensure that workers are no longer excluded from being able to access to basic earned sick leave standards and employment protections that currently apply to most all other workers. We believe that no one should be forced to work sick regardless of who their employer is. We ask that you close the loophole in the current Paid Sick Leave law to ensure that union members hired through hiring halls are able to stay home when they are sick or care for their loved ones when needed.

We need to ensure that all workers have access to paid sick time because it impacts every worker and citizen in Oregon. While this bill does not apply to our membership we believe it is important to stand in solidarity with these workers and for the health of our communities overall. If someone is forced to work sick it can only spread the illness. SB 588 does not create a wholly new program or system. It extends the same minimum protections and ability to accrue earned sick leave to workers currently excluded from coverage. Excluding these workers serves no purpose. We believe that SB 588 is just common sense.

Oregon AFSCME urges your support for SB 588.

Sincerely,

Joe Baessler

Associate Director

Oregon AFSCME