

March 25, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee
From: Dalia Andrade
Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dalia Andrade and I live in West Salem. When I was 11 years old, I lost my dad. It was on a Sunday that he left to the store with a neighbor, I had insisted that he take me and he refused. I stayed behind with my mother who was asleep since she had worked the night shift at a job she had recently started at. Not long after he left the phone rang I was not supposed to answer it but I did, on the other end our neighbor asked to speak with my mom, it was urgent. I felt scared and woke her up. I could see her face change from drowsy and annoyed to being upset and scared. She hung up and dialed my sister to come pick us up, our father had been taken to Salem Hospital. My dad suffered a stroke and died due to the lack of oxygen he suffered severe brain damage and was on a ventilator. He was in the ICU 5 days before our family made the painful decision to let him go on September 7, 2007. There was no hope of him ever recovering consciousness and he would have not liked to be hooked up to any machines, he hated hospitals.

September 2nd is always a difficult day, for that is the anniversary of the last day I saw my father alive, that is the day I lost him. I learned to value family, a strong work ethic from my parents but sometimes the policies in place don't value the same things we are taught to value. My mother lost her job for missing 2 weeks from work during this time. She kept them informed of the situation and let them know she would be back as soon as possible...but that didn't matter. It didn't matter that the love of her life was gone, it didn't matter that she had me to take care of by herself and it didn't matter that she needed the job now more than ever, dad had been our primary bread earner. During an already difficult time in our lives the stress of financial instability made this tragic even more difficult to process.

No one should have to worry about missing work when they are grieving a loss. Mothers like mine should be protected and supported so that they can get back on their feet and be there for their children. My mother didn't get the time she needed to take care of her self or us. She suffered and went into severe depression that to this day I am not sure she has completely come out of. My mother had to beg for her job back as a last resort she took in my dad's death certificate and after 2 weeks she got it back, she had to prove that he was dead for them to realize the gravity of the situation.

Financial instability should not be another worry, burdening people with additional unnecessary stress. People should be allowed to do what they need to do as a human being to move forward in life after an impactful event. This is why I want paid family and medical leave to be a possibility for all working Oregonians please pass HB3031.

Sincerely,

Dalia Andrade