

March 26, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee
From: Felicita Monteblanco (Aloha, Oregon)
Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chairs Taylor and Barker and Members of the Committees,

My name is Felicita Monteblanco, resident of Aloha, long-time nonprofit employee and a local elected leader. I want to email my full support for HB 3031 and encourage my representatives to pass this bill as it is a resource that each Oregonian needs to put family first.

I, along with thousands in Oregon, have been directly impacted by the suicide of a family member. While this is a trauma I have yet to heal from I can look back at this time and be forever grateful that my employer offered FMLA so that I could focus on caring for my family.

In 2012 my mother took the first attempt at her life. Because of the extent of her injuries she needed needed 24 hour care, as well as supervision. Over six months of hell my family pooled our resources, let all our other responsibilities slip and put the health of my mother above all else. Ultimately she was successful in her third attempt and died in October of 2012. These months are all a fog now, seven years later, but I very clearly remember that my employer ensured I was able to work half days during her illness and grieve after her death.

HB 3031 would significantly increase access to universal paid family and medical leave: ensuring that Oregonians could focus on their own health and those of their loved ones and not have to stress about going to work. I don't want anyone who is experiencing the trauma and stress like I did to have to worry about their job. Family first, always.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Felicita Monteblanco