



Chair Kathleen Taylor, Senate Workforce Committee

Chair Jeff Barker, House Business and Labor Committee

Written testimony regarding SB 947 and HB 3031

March 25, 2019

Chair Taylor, Chair Barker, and Committee Members,

The Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 500 members of all employee sizes. Implementing HB 3031 and/or SB 947 would dramatically change the way each of our members provides economic stability to our area.

The majority of our members are small business owners. Adding additional regulation and government run programs to an already thin bottom line would be a tremendous hardship. Good businesses are successful in large part because they can compete for customers and compete for the best employees. If HB 3031 or SE 947 were to pass, both the customers and the employees will be tremendously impacted....as will the bottom line of the business.

Family Paid Leave is a laudable goal. However, unintended consequences may outweigh the initial goal. If Oregon businesses lose a competitive edge, those jobs and products will go elsewhere. If Oregon businesses can't afford (or find) enough employees to give good customer service, their customers will go elsewhere. Stability and reliability are necessary for a successful business and good economic environment. Adding such a dramatic change to businesses of all sizes will have unintended consequences.

Legislation like the proposed HB 3031 and SB 947 will accomplish three things: 1) establish another government run agency requiring at least 200 more state workers to manage the program plus the cost of another large IT development 2) reduce ones ability to be competitive with other states and 3) add another tax to family and businesses.

Please let the current Oregon Family Leave Act work for a few years. Review the successes and areas for improvement. And if it is appropriate, then look to expand the program. Now is not the time to widen the net and add burdens to all businesses and local governments.

Our Chamber strongly urges you to vote NO on HB 3031 and SB 947.

Sincerely,

Lynn Snodgrass  
CEO, Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce

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