

Hello,

I am a constituent from Portland, and I am writing in support of HB 3031, the FAMLI Equity Act.

I am deeply in support of improving legally protected family leave for all. It was an enormous financial burden to take unpaid maternity leave for the births of both of my children, and be facing daycare costs and hospital bills while being three months behind in income. I get very little PTO at my current job and am constantly worried that I will not be able to take time off work when I need to in order to care for my children when they get sick (as little ones so often do in daycare!).

I work as a mental health therapist with many families struggling in jobs with no benefits and very little job security. I have seen many parents lose jobs over needing to cancel a shift or take time off to care for family members, plunging families deeper into a cycle of poverty, or forcing parents to leave vulnerable children and elders with inappropriate or unsafe caregivers.

America is one of the only developed nations that does not provide paid family leave for its citizens, which damages our economy and puts undue hardship on families trying to care for children and elders in a system where paid caregiving and healthcare are not affordable for most people.

Please pass this bill and take an important step towards building a stronger and more equitable future for Oregon residents.

Sincerely,  
Beth VanBuecken