



Testimony in support of House Bill 3031

Jacqueline Dillon RN

March 25, 2019

Chair Barker and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 3031, the FAMLI Equity Act. My name is Jacqueline Dillon and I'm a critical care nurse at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis Oregon.

I support HB 3031, the FAMLI Equity Act because I believe it is best for the residents of our state. Everyone will at some point either have a health issue or a family member with an issue that is going to require leave from work. During times such as these, people should not have to worry about bankruptcy or work.

As a nurse, I've seen so many of my friends, co-workers and patients struggle with the lack of paid leave and the very real subsequent physical, mental and economic consequences. I've even been in a position of financial hardship myself because Oregon doesn't have Paid Leave. Here are just a few of the many, many reasons it's critical that we pass HB 3031 this session:

- Even with a full-time job and good benefits, when I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and had to undergo surgery and chemotherapy, I was questioning how much longer I was going to be on this earth. I was not able to work during treatment and was lucky to have a lot of support, but still ended up having to declare bankruptcy due to falling behind financially when I was unable to work.
- I have seen many of many of my co-workers work overtime while being very pregnant to earn the paid time off to be able to afford maternity leave. I do not think that it is a coincidence that many of my co-workers have had their babies early, the effects of their stress translating into negative health outcomes for them and their children.
- I sat with a patient that learned that she needed open heart surgery as she cried because she was the primary earner for her family and did not know what she was going to do. She asked me if I thought she could hold off on open heart surgery so she could try to figure out how to afford it.

This is just a fraction of the stories Oregonians are experiencing every day. We must do everything in our power to make these kinds of stories an outlier, not the rule in Oregon. The time to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave for all Oregonians is now, which is why I hope you will support House Bill 3031.