

Testimony on in Support of SB 588

John D. Mayfield

February 4, 2021

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 588. My name is John Mayfield. I am a current apprentice and member of LiUNA Local 737.

I am writing to offer support for SB 588 because it represents a common-sense solution for helping to ensure that workers are no longer excluded from being able to access to basic earned sick leave standards and employment protections that currently apply to most all sectors today. We know that when workers do not have paid time off, they are 1.5 times more likely to go to work even when they have a contagious illness¹. That is why we cannot wait any longer to close the loophole in the current Paid Sick Leave law to ensure that union members hired through hiring halls are able to stay home when they are sick or care for their loved ones when needed.

As an apprentice, I am proud of the work I am able to accomplish and proud of the contributions I make towards our community's infrastructure. However, not having paid sick time, has greatly impacted me. I am currently going through health issues, of which I am needing surgery. Due to not having paid sick leave, I have attempted to put off my health care, until I could no longer. Many across our trade have encountered this same challenging and detrimental decision. We worry and fear the consequences of not receiving a pay, because we are exempted from paid sick time. We have had to make the difficult decision to go to work over properly caring of ourselves and our families. Senate Bill 588 helps better ensure that more workers do not have to face impossible choices between going to work sick or risking infection or forego their income to stay home when needed.

I urge you to expand access to paid sick leave and support SB 588.

Sincerely,

John D. Mayfield

¹ Smith, T. W., & Kim, J. (2010, June). Paid Sick Days: Attitudes and Experiences. National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago for the Public Welfare Foundation Publication