

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on SB 588. My name is Haley Alves and I am providing this testimony on behalf of the Northwest Carpenters Union.

I am writing in support of SB 588 because I feel that paid sick leave is a basic right for workers in Oregon. For those covered under collective bargaining agreements, our work can be dangerous. It is simply unsafe for ourselves and others to be on a job site while sick. Paid sick leave would reduce burdens and healthcare costs incurred for the emergency visits that result. We also know that workers without paid sick leave are one and a half times more likely to go into work sick and spread contagious illness. Caregivers, a group which skews heavily toward women and people of color, marginalized groups already dealing with various disadvantages on a job site, are impacted more frequently than their white male counterparts. If Covid has taught us nothing else, it has taught us that this simply cannot continue.

I urge you to support this bill and provide relief to the working people that you represent.

Sincerely

Haley Alves
Northwest Carpenters Union