



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2015

For More Information, Contact:

Scott Moore (503) 986-1904

scott.moore@state.or.us

Paid Sick Time for Oregon Workers Passes House

SB 454 provides sick time protection, heads to Governor

In a victory for working families across the state, the Oregon House of Representatives today voted 33-24 to send [Senate Bill 454](#)—providing paid sick time protections for most workers—to Governor Brown.

Currently, an estimated 47% of workers in the private sector have no access to paid sick time. The problem is even worse for those at the bottom end of the pay scale: 71% of low-wage workers have no paid sick time. When they get ill, they either have to go to work sick, or lose a day of pay—or even their job.

Working parents regularly have to make the decision to send their kids to school sick—and hope for the best—or risk their job by staying home with them.

“Today is a great day for Oregon,” said Rep. Paul Holvey (D-Eugene). “This paid sick time law is a win for working families and all those who care about public health and economic security, and I applaud everyone who supported and worked for the passage of this legislation. It’s an important step forward in creating a healthier, stronger workforce for low-income workers who are still struggling to get by.”

Senate Bill 454 requires most employers having ten or more employees to implement a sick time policy allowing an employee to earn up to 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally, the bill requires most employers who employ fewer than ten employees to implement an unpaid sick time policy.

“Not only do we want to see businesses thrive, we want them to be able to keep their valued employees,” says Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson (D-Portland). “When employees have access to earned sick time, it reduces harmful impacts on workplace productivity, employee turnover, and health care costs—something that saves businesses time and money and allows them to keep their well-trained staff.”

Passing a statewide paid sick time law has been a major priority for House Democrats, and there’s growing momentum across the country to provide this basic protection for workers. Once signed into law, Oregon will join California, Connecticut, and Massachusetts as states with a paid sick leave policy.

SB 454 now goes to Governor Kate Brown for her signature.

###