



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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House Democrats Pass Partisan Mandate Increasing Costs For Oregon Employers

Mandatory Paid Sick Leave Expected To Cost Oregon Businesses \$914 Million

Salem, OR – Continuing to move forward with an aggressive agenda that harms Oregon businesses, House Democrats today passed SB 454, partisan legislation that requires Oregon employers to provide paid sick leave for employees. Expected to cost Oregon businesses \$914 million when fully implemented, SB 454 requires Oregon businesses with 10 employees or more to implement a paid sick leave policy.

“Oregonians sent us here to do what’s best for our state and their interests. I stand here today in support of those who pour their entire selves into their business,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte). “The choices we make today in Salem will have a lasting impact on our state in both good and bad economic times. Passing this flawed mandate in such a partisan fashion is one of the more troubling choices the Legislature has made this session.”

House Republicans unanimously rejected the partisan legislation, calling the proposal flawed and disproportionately burdensome on Oregon’s natural resource and agriculture industries. House Republicans drew attention to the low 10-employee threshold mandated in the bill and lack of exemptions for the agriculture industry, as well as the lone exemption in the bill for public-sector employee unions. Additionally, House Republicans expressed concerns about the impact of the legislation on rural communities, local shops and businesses and youth employment, and described the measure as another example of government overreach and intervention in private industry.

“When I think about this mandatory paid sick leave proposal, I can’t help but think of the kids in my district that won’t be able to find jobs because our local businesses can’t afford to hire new employees,” said Representative Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio), who voiced concerns about the impact of mandatory paid sick leave on youth employment. “Forcing another costly mandate on our local businesses discourages them from hiring younger Oregonians – the high school students and college students who are saving for tuition and trying to pay their student loans.”

“Most farms are small and family-owned in my district, but together, they make up a billion-dollar industry in Klamath Falls,” said Representative Gail Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls). “If this sick leave policy goes into effect without an exemption for farmers and other seasonal and agricultural employers, it will hurt these industries that provide countless high-wage jobs for families in an area of the state that is still struggling to recover from an economic recession.”

Prior to the vote on mandatory paid sick leave, House Democrats rejected House Republican attempts to pull common-sense economic growth measures to the floor for a vote, including House Bills [2390](#), [2242](#), [3313](#), [2245](#), [3457](#), [3055](#), and [2752](#). Included among these bills were measures aimed at supporting job creation, investing in research and development, and supporting local employers and small

businesses. Every single measure failed on a nearly party-line vote, despite the fact that several of the bills were sponsored by Democrats.

SB 454 passed 33-24 on a near party-line vote. Democrats Brian Clem and John Lively joined House Republicans in opposing the measure.

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