



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

PRESS RELEASE

April 24, 2020

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Democrats Commend Oregon Supreme Court Decision Protecting Oregon's Paid Sick Leave Law

SALEM – Yesterday, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled in favor of upholding Oregon's Paid Sick Leave law. Senate Democrats led the fight to pass SB 454 in 2015 to grant workers protected leave and to keep workers from choosing between their health and well-being and an income to pay rent or provide for their families.

Paid sick leave can be used by employees when they or family members are sick or need to visit a doctor. The leave can also be used to care for a child if their school was closed due to a public health emergency.

"The Oregon Supreme Court has made exactly the right decision," said Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) who championed Senate Bill 454. "Now more than ever we understand that the state has a responsibility to make sure that workers stay healthy. This keeps their customers, coworkers, families and the larger community safer."

Yesterday's unanimous decision makes it clear that Paid Sick Leave is a crucial benefit for workers, not an unfunded mandate for local governments.

"In the face of this pandemic, it is abundantly clear that everyone benefits when people can stay home when they are sick," said Senator Sara Gelser (D-Albany/Corvallis). "Paid sick leave is essential to ensure that those with the most to lose can stay home when necessary – protecting themselves and others. No Oregonian should be forced to choose between their health and their paycheck."

###