



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

OPHA Action Alert: **Support Paid Sick Time**

This last Monday evening during a lively public hearing, [Family Forward Action](#) led the charge in support of a statewide paid sick time law at the State Capitol. Testimony was heard from dozens of workers, employers, public health experts, community members, kids, local government officials, and more. On behalf of OPHA and ONA, Board Representative and Policy Committee Chair, Anna Stiefvater testified as well. [Click here](#) to read **Anna's full testimony in support of SB 454 and HB 2005**.

What is being proposed?

[SB 454](#) and [HB 2005](#) – the same bill in both the House and Senate - will ensure all working Oregonians have access to a reasonable amount of paid sick time where they work so workers across Oregon can both provide for and responsibly care for their own and their families' health. Both bills will allow workers to accrue one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 56 hours (about seven days) in a year. Sick time can be used for the diagnosis, care or treatment of the worker or a member of their family or in instances of domestic violence. Both bills also protect employees from retaliation or discrimination for the use of sick time.

**Both bills now await work sessions in their respective committees.*

Who is affected?

New data from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) shows that today, 47% of private sector workers in Oregon have no access to paid sick time where they work. There's an even larger gap in access among Hispanic workers in Oregon, with a shocking 62% having no paid sick time.

IWPR also details how low-wage workers are less likely to have access to paid sick time than higher-paid workers. In Oregon, 82% of those earning more than \$65,000 annually have access to paid sick time compared to 29% of Oregonians earning less than \$20,000 annually. Those least able to afford a day without pay are also least likely to have access to paid sick time. It's another inequality in our economy that's hurting us all.

Join OPHA in support of Support Paid Sick Time - Make your voice heard!

In the meantime, please contact your state representative and senator to ask for their "yes" vote on paid sick time (HB 2005 and SB 454). It's quick but incredibly important. Here's how:

Identify your state representatives. Find out who your representative and senator are by entering your street address [HERE](#).

Get their contact info. Record their email addresses and capitol office phone numbers (for later reference!)

Make contact! Decide to email or call them, then do it!

- **Send an email:** Draft a short, personal message about your support for paid sick time. It can be as basic as: "I am writing today your constituent and a member of the Oregon

Public Health Association to express my support for paid sick time for all Oregonians. I ask that you vote to pass it in 2015. Working Oregonians have waited long enough for what is very standard in most developed nations.” If you have a personal story to share, please add it!

- **Make a phone call:** You will either reach a voice mail or a staffer will answer. Simply say your name, that you are a constituent, and a member of the Oregon Public Health Association, and that you are aware there is a paid sick time bill under consideration that you strongly support. Ask that s/he vote yes on the bill, which is HB 2005 (in the House of Representatives) or SB 454 (in the Senate).

Family Forward Action and OPHA thank you for taking time to speak up and for participating actively in our democratic government. We can't stress enough how powerful personal emails and phone calls are to your representatives. So few people take the time to write personal emails and pick up the phone that when you do, it really stands out and counts.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our policy committee and advocacy through OPHA.

Oregon Public Health Association

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