

Date: February 25, 2010

To: The members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

Re: SB 63

My name is Christine Burke, and I am a school bus driver in Salem. I've been driving for 13 years.

I urge you to support **SB 63 AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES.**

One day when my daughter was 11 months old, she had such a severe fever that I took her to the doctor. With my daughter so sick, I thought it best that I call out of work to stay home and take care of her. Management told me that there was no one to cover my bus run and that I would need to come in to work. I drove all day with my son and my sick, miserable daughter on the bus.

Just as I pulled into my driveway after work, my daughter had a seizure. I later learned that the seizure was caused by her high fever. At the time, of course, I panicked! I ran into the house to call 911 with my limp daughter in my arms, desperate to get her help. I was in such a frenzy that I forgot all about my young son who I left in the car.

I can't help but think that if I had been able to take the day off and keep my daughter hydrated and cool at home, my family might not have gone through this terrible experience. Fortunately my daughter was ok. Things could have been a lot worse, but if we don't do something to ensure that drivers can take the sick time they need, things like this will keep happening.

This is my worst experience as a driver without sick time, but it isn't my only one. We need paid sick days. Our health depends on it.

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