



## Portland Human Rights Commission

City of Portland, Oregon

Kyle Busse, Chair

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Portland Human Rights Commission Supports Proposed Protected Sick Time Ordinance**

PORTLAND – The Portland Human Rights Commission (HRC) supports the ordinance proposed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz that authorizes changes to the City Code to require protected sick time for employees of businesses working in the City of Portland.

HRC Chair, Kyle Busse, said, “The provision of paid sick time for all Portland employees will promote greater equity for our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable among us.”

More than 80 percent of low-wage earners have no access to paid sick days. The earners are primarily working in occupations such as construction, food service, personal care, building and grounds maintenance, and farming. In Multnomah County, 48 percent of single mothers of color are living in poverty, compared with 32 percent of white single mothers. The disparity is increasing, as 84 percent of single mothers of color with children under five years old are living in poverty, compared with 38 percent of white single mothers in the same category. The statistics show that workers who can least afford to suffer the negative consequences of a missed work day due to illness, are those who are most likely to suffer those consequences.

The HRC concludes that providing Portland employees with access to paid sick days addresses the dual goals of improving public health and promoting greater equity in the City of Portland. A representative from the Commission will testify before City Council on Thursday, March 7, 2013 in support of the proposed ordinance.

The Portland HRC works to eliminate discrimination and bigotry, to strengthen inter-group relationships, and to foster greater understanding, inclusion, and justice for those who live, work, study, worship, travel and play in the City of Portland.

For more information, please contact Jeff Selby at [jeff.selby@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:jeff.selby@portlandoregon.gov)

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