

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

PLATFORM & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

11/21/2013

RESOLUTION 2013.9

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY OF OREGON

Relating to Paid & Protected Sick Time for Eugene Workers

WHEREAS, 51% of Eugene workers have no paid sick time to deal with their own and their family's health needs; and

WHEREAS, Even a minor illness or injury can lead to a family economic crisis, and many employees fear discipline or termination for staying home or visiting a health care provider when sick; and

WHEREAS, Low-wage and minority workers, as well as workers in jobs with high levels of public contact, such as restaurant and child care workers, are significantly less likely to have paid and protected sick time. When these workers work while ill, they risk spreading illnesses to coworkers and customers, as well as jeopardizing their own health. Furthermore, workers who don't earn paid or protected sick time face impossible decisions about staying home with a sick child and risking their income or job, or sending a sick child to school and exposing classmates and school employees to illness; and

WHEREAS, Paid or protected sick time enables workers to see a healthcare provider during regular hours and to obtain preventive care services, which reduces the burden on and cost of hospital emergency services. It is estimated that universal access to paid sick time would prevent approximately 34,000 emergency department visits annually in Oregon among private sector workers and their families, resulting in a health care cost reduction of about \$29 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Paid sick time is considered a standard in most workplaces worldwide and is required in every industrialized country in the world except the U.S. At least 145 of the 196 countries in the world mandate some form of paid sick time, as do the state of Connecticut and several large American cities (including Portland, New York, Seattle and San Francisco); and

WHEREAS, a paid sick time standard will reduce the competitive disadvantage that many responsible employers face when they choose to provide paid sick time to their workers.

THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the adoption of consistent, minimum standards for paid and protected sick time promotes a sustainable, healthy, and productive workforce and a stronger overall economy. It is in the public interest to ensure that a majority of workers have the basic right to earn and use paid sick time, and all workers should have access to protected sick time, even if it is not required that they be paid for that time.

SECTION 2. That the DPLC calls upon the Eugene City Council to draft a citywide paid and protected sick time policy for public consideration.

SECTION 3. That the DPLC will work with the “Everybody Benefits Coalition of Oregon” and our state legislators to promote a statewide sick time policy.

**RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY,
ASSEMBLED IN EUGENE, OREGON, NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

Signed:

X _____
Julie Fahey
Chair

X _____
Andrew S. Becker
Secretary
