

Public Health Nurse Advocacy: From Home Visits to the State House

Anna Stiefvater, RN, MPH

May 4, 2015

Objectives

- Describe and give examples of:
 - how a nurse can engage in the agenda setting/policy change process
 - current issue of interest

Barriers to Advocacy

- I'm Not Much of an Activist
- I Don't Have Time
- It Is Difficult to Sell Prevention
- I Don't Know Enough About It
- It Won't Make a Difference
- Fear of Employment-Related Repercussions
- I Don't Know Where to Begin or What to Do Next

Why Nurses?

- Clinical experiences provide real-life examples illustrating the needs of patients and the outcomes of public policy on patient morbidity and mortality.
- Those same skills that serve us well as patient advocates at an individual level also can be used at the community or public health level.
- Nursing continues to be ranked highest among the various professions in terms of being the most trusted.



Case Study: Earned Sick Days







MOVING OREGON FORWARD WITH
SMART POLICIES FOR TODAY'S FAMILIES.

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Our Story



Some of us lost our jobs after taking maternity leave. Others couldn't afford to work after starting a family because child care cost more than we made. Some of us sought part-time or flexible work schedules to better support our family's needs, only to learn that this is hard to find. Some of us were turned down for jobs because of our status as mothers. At times we felt alone and responsible to figure out how to make it work.

And then we found each other. We learned that in our country, mothers suffer a huge

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Don't Miss a Th

Hop on our eList so you know we're working on, when we have events, and how to get involved.

First Name*

Last Name*

**YES TO
EARNED SICK TIME
IN PDX!**

Everybody
Benefits

Portland's Campaign for

Earned Sick Days

EUGENE SAYS YES TO PAID SICK DAYS!



EUGENE CITY COUNCIL PASSES PAID SICK DAYS ORDINANCE:

Effective July 1, 2015, all people working in Eugene will earn paid sick time while they work



Testimony in Support of SB 454 and HB 2005

February 16, 2015

Anna Stiefvater, RN, MPH

Oregon Nurses Association, Cabinet on Health Policy Chair

Oregon Public Health Association, Board of Directors

Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) and the Oregon Public Health Association (OPHA) in support of SB 454 and HB 2005.

My name is Anna Stiefvater. I am a public health nurse, Chair of ONA's Cabinet on Health Policy and a Board member for the OPHA. As you may know, many working Oregonians do not currently have access to earned sick time on the job. This almost certainly ensures that workers without sick days will choose to go to work when they are ill. When workers go to work sick, not only do they delay their own treatment and recovery, they also put their co-workers—who likely do not have sick days, either—and members of the public at risk of being exposed to and infected by contagious illnesses,



**FAMILY FORWARD
ACTION**

Building grassroots power that works for families.

Dear Anna,

Three weeks ago, Oregon legislators heard over 8 hours of passionate testimony about the proposal to extend access to paid sick time to all working Oregonians. Right now, 47% of Oregonians who work in the private sector don't have a single day of paid sick time where they work. Not one!

These Oregonians - our friends, family, and neighbors - are faced with the impossible, often heart-wrenching decision to either care for a sick family member, get better, or keep their jobs. And we believe that is not how a civilized society should work.

So we're inviting you to **add your voice for paid sick time in Oregon!** [Just click here now to sign our petition](#) to state legislators.

It's so important that our legislators continue to hear your voice of support over the next month or two as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.

If you believe, like we do, that all Oregonians should have time to recover from illness, see their doctor, and care for a sick child or other family member without losing essential wages, [SIGN NOW!](#)


We have some really terrific state legislators working hard to bring paid sick time to all Oregonians, wherever they live and work. Here is what two are saying:

- **Sen. Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward:** *"Too many Oregonians face an impossible choice when illness strikes. We need to proactively tackle this issue now so every working Oregonian can afford to stay home when sick, see a doctor when needed or care for a*



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16 of 4

RE: Paid Sick Time is a Basic Right  Inbox x



Sen Hass <sen.markhass@state.or.us>

Apr 17 (3 days ago) ☆



to me ▾

Dear Ms. Stiefvater,

Thanks for emailing us. Senator Hass appreciates your feedback.

Senator Hass believes Oregonians deserve to stay at home during sickness without losing their financial security. Currently there are several proposals existing in the legislature, but no specific bills have appeared before Senator Hass.

In the meantime, our office is thankful for the opinion of constituents such as yourself. If you have any additional comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to share them with us.

Best,

Sasha Kolomensky

Sasha Kolomensky
Legislative Intern
Senator Mark Hass
District 14 - Washington County/Beaverton/Aloha/SW Portland



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Sen.markhass@state.or.us

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We support candidates who support our families.



Hi Anna,

We need your help. Today.

Here's the deal: an Oregon state senator whom we endorsed (when he last ran for office in 2012) committed to support paid sick days at that time. Now that we're so close to winning sick days for people all across the state, we're not sure if he'll follow through on his promise.

Can you help us remind **Senator Mark Hass** (a Democrat in the Beaverton area) to make good on his campaign promise and to publicly support Senate Bill 454? This bill would allow people all over Oregon to have access to paid sick time where they work, something that mothers really need to care for their own and their children's health.

We don't endorse candidates who don't support our top priorities. Period. So if we hear that someone we endorsed is considering going back on their word, we think it's our job to let you know. We know that you trust our picks for elected office, and we take that responsibility seriously. We also know you want us to hold our legislators accountable for what they promised when we endorsed them. We hope you'll help us do that today — here's how:

[Just click here](#) to ask Senator Hass to honor his commitments and publicly support Senate Bill 454 (the paid sick days bill) now.

Nobody The Mother PAC supports should waver on something that has such a positive impact for moms and their families, especially if he committed to support it when asking for our endorsement.

Thank you for joining us right now to speak up for paid sick time. Now is the time to use our voices for the good of all working Oregonians, including all the mothers among us who desperately need paid sick time to care for our own and our children's health. **Tell Senator Hass he needs to publicly support Senate Bill 454.**

Yours from Salem

Take Action

- Vote-Register Others to Vote
- Contribute to A Campaign-Volunteer for a Campaign-Run for Office
- Start or sign a petition
- Participate in Action Alerts-Visit your legislator-Attend Lobby Days
- Write a letter to the editor-Write an Op-Ed
- Testify at a hearing

Stay Informed

- Legislator newsletters
- Sign up for Legislative Updates/Action Alerts
- Attend a Town Hall
- Participate in Social Media

Advocacy

“Who’s job is it? It’s nobody’s job. It has to be all of our job. We are the coalition of the benevolently irrational. The good people doing good things for no good reason.”

-Jefferson Smith, former state rep and founder of the Bus Project



Contact

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