January 16, 2018

To: CLHO Board

Fr: CLHO Legislative Committee

Re: Recommendation to support Paid Family & Medical Leave

The United for Kids Agenda has several bills in the “Economic Security” area that may be of interest for the Coalition of Local Health Officials to support. The Legislative Committee has now reviewed the list at one meeting and looked specifically at a couple of important issues at the last meeting.

During the last CLHO Legislative Committee meeting we reviewed the proposal for a Paid Family and Medical Leave concept introduced by Family Forward.

This paid leave would allow moms (and dads) to take and receive paid leave for birth, adoption, or foster placement and help set a child onto a path for health. This would also provide paid leave to cover family leave for serious illnesses.

Here is the concept:

This program would be managed by Oregon’s Department of Consumer & Business Services. Employees and employers will each contribute up to 0.5% (half of one percent) of an employee’s wages through a regular payroll deduction, collected by the Department of Revenue. When an employee has a qualifying reason for leave they would receive partial wage replacement for their time away from work directly from the state insurance fund.

The CLHO Legislative Committee voted to support this concept during the 2018 legislative session. Please see the one-pager for more information.