Oregon House sends paid sick leave bill to governor

By Jonathan J. Cooper **Associated Press**

SALEM (AP)Republicans tried without success Friday to derail an Oregon bill that would require businesses to offer sick leave to their employees, arguing the measure would be bad for business and devastating for the agriculture industry.

Democrats unswayed, sending the bill to Democratic Governor Kate Brown in a 33-24 vote that mostly followed party lines.

The bill is a top priority for Democrats and the interest groups that support them, who say it will ensure people don't have to work while they or a child are sick.

Republicans raised a number of objections, but they homed in particularly on the effects the bill would have on agriculture. Farmers growing perishable crops have a limited window to pick them and could be ruined if workers call in sick unexpectedly, several GOP lawmakers said.

Furthermore, they said, farmers can't make back higher costs because food prices are determined by global commodity markets.

"The agricultural industry is dependent on the whims of nature," said Rep. Michael Nearman, R-Independence. "I just find it hard to believe that there isn't an agricultural

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exemption, some sort of recognition that the work done in agriculture is different from the work done elsewhere in the economy."

Rep. Paul Holvey, a Eugene Democrat, said farm workers often do backbreaking work for long hours outdoors for low wages. They need paid sick leave as much or more than anyone else, he said.

"Agricultural workers are a part of our society," Holvey said. "We cannot and should not turn our backs on them."

The bill requires employers with at least 10 workers to offer up to 40 hours of paid leave per year, starting in January. Smaller employers would be required to provide unpaid leave. Employers that already offer more generous leave policies would be unaffected.

Oregon would become the fourth state to require paid leave, after California, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Portland has required paid sick leave, and the Eugene City Council approved a sickleave mandate that has yet to take effect. The bill's proponents said a consistent statewide policy would be better than allowing cities to make their own rules.

Myhre to take reins as volleyball coach

By Rongi Yost Correspondent

Jason Myhre has been heavily involved with the volleyball program here in Sisters for many years, and this fall will step into the role of head coach. Myhre will bring with him experience as a player and as a coach.

Jason played volleyball for three years in high school, back when it was also a boys' sport. After graduation, while attending a community college in Eugene, he was the assistant varsity coach at South Eugene High School. After that, Myhre attended Oregon State University (OSU) for four years and played USVBA (United States Volleyball Association) volleyball for one year.

"I played in adult leagues after I graduated from OSU, but then I had kids and it all stopped," he said.

When Adelyn (their seventh-grade daughter) was in third grade Myhre quickly got back into coaching and coached OVC (Outlaw Volleyball Club). He's been involved with OVC for the past five years, and the past three years he's worked alongside former coach Miki McFadden as an assistant

Myhre told The Nugget that he plans to continue with the same fundamental skills

and encourage growth that's already been established, and also add his own flair to the program.

"I'm a little bit more active with the kids," stated Myhre. "I look at the details of their play very close to micromanage changes in their skills. I'm going to look deeper into each player in what motivates them out on the court."

Jason expressed how thrilled he is with the tremendous coaching staff that is still in place, specifically assistants Brad Bulloch, Cris Converse, and Claire Rerat as the JV-2 coach.

"Brad and Cris might be my assistants, but I view them more as counterparts in the program," said Myhre.

The Lady Outlaws will only lose two players on varsity. In the fall, Sisters will return with a very strong squad, and Myhre has big expectations.

"I expect to repeat as state champions," he said. "We'll have a big target on our back, because we're going to be the team to beat. I'm expecting my girls to not only perform well on the court, but to play a mentor part to the younger girls in the program."

Myhre shared why he loves the sport.

"One thing I love about volleyball is that anybody who plays can play long into adulthood. It's an indoor and

outdoor sport, and it's a pure team sport. Not one player can carry the whole team. It's the one sport that focuses players to become technically sound in order to grow in the

"I'm very excited about the new position, but also know there's high expectations from parents, the community, and the players. I feel confident because of the level of coaching staff we have. That's been a huge stress reliever for me. And it doesn't hurt that we have incredible athletes."

Myhre has lived in Sisters for the past 13 years with his wife, Rachelle, and their four children, Peyton (freshman), Adelyn (seventh grade), Sydney (fifth grade) and Gracelyn (third grade).



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