

Good Morning everyone, and thank you for allowing me to comment today on House Bill 5740. My name is Joanne Kenyon, and I have been employed by AT&T for 8 years. During these 8 years, I have undergone 2 surgeries on my right hand and wrist. The first surgery on my right hand was for DeQuervain's Syndrome, similar to carpal tunnel disease, but effecting my thumb. DeQuervain's tenosynovitis is a condition that causes pain associated with movement of the thumb. The cause of the pain of DeQuervain's is inflammation within a confined area around the base of the thumb and wrist. This inflammation is called tenosing synovitis. This simply means that the inflammation involves the synovium and tendons that control the movement of the thumb. DeQuervain's tenosynovitis is most common in the 30-50 year old age group, and is seen more commonly in women. DeQuervain's tenosynovitis is due to excessive use of the wrist.

My second surgery was a second tendon release for DeQuervain's, and to release the tendon for one of my fingers to relieve trigger finger. A trigger finger is a common problem that causes pain and catching. Tendons that help bend the fingers and thumb slide through a snug tunnel. Irritation as the tendons slip into the tunnel can cause the opening of the tunnel to become smaller, or the tendon to thicken so that it can't easily pass through the tunnel. As you try to straighten the finger, the tendon becomes momentarily stuck at the mouth of the tunnel then pops as the tendon slips past the tight area. This can cause pain and catching as you try to move the finger.

These surgeries were approximately 10 months apart, and I was back to work less than 3 weeks after each surgery. I firmly believe that a review of my work station to what would be ergonomically set up for my needs might have prevented the reason for my surgery. Even after my first surgery, AT&T did not have anyone come out to check my work station, my computer or my chair to make sure that I was not continuing to do damage to my wrists and hands. It was only after my return to work after surgery in 2005 for a shoulder issue that a company representative came out to assess my work station on an unexpected visit to our New London office, where he found my chair and desk to be set up incorrectly. I cannot imagine how many aches and pains might have been averted if this representative had been out to see me sooner.

As a single mom raising two daughters, I have to be at my best while working every single day. Working is not an option, it is a necessity for me and my family. Egonomics to me means that I can continue to work, effieciently, productively, and in a healthy manner so that I can continue to provide the best for my family. Thank you for your time and consideration to this most important issue.

Joanne Kenyon
77 Stoneheights Dr
Waterford, CT 06385
860 444-8888
merikayla@snet.net