

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Testimony in favor of
HB 1051

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF AIR
QUALITY IN STATE BUILDINGS**

Thank you Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and the members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee for the opportunity to have my testimony read this afternoon. I am currently a State employee and have been for the past eight years and believe the proposed legislation, Raised Bill 1051 is a very good start in helping to identify and prevent mold and other unsafe health and environmental conditions in state buildings. I also believe it provides accountability to the employer and appropriate recourse to the employee. I hope the Committee will consider extending the reach of this Bill to include those office spaces leased by the state of Connecticut.

An example of why is the following: There is building which the State currently leases office space that has been labeled a "SICK BUILDING" due to moisture, water leaks, and poor air quality resulting in the presence and growth of allergenic and toxic molds throughout the entire office space. This has caused several employees to have allergic reactions and others more serious health problems and side effects. Management noted during a recent inspection that the building had these types of problems for the past 10 years. Due to the negligence of and lack of maintenance by the landlord and the State of Connecticut, this problem is ten years old and is just now being officially identified. FYI to the committee: In both mold cases cited, a qualified medical doctor was able to identify the mold exposure to employees with and without complaints thru mold specific blood tests and other medical tests.

To date the State employees working in the afore-mentioned building continue to experience symptoms and serious adverse health effects due directly to the mold in that office. Extending the reach of this Bill to include those office spaces leased by the state of Connecticut is particularly important because in the above mentioned case and cases like it, State employees will have to rely heavily on the landlord to report and correct these types of problems which sometimes are undetectable without inspection.

The current proposed bill would ensure an inspection every five years. It is my sincere hope that this committee will further consider amending this bill to require state buildings to be inspected annually. Why annually? Because mold growth and contamination happens within 48 hours of moisture intrusion. After 48 hours the mold can release millions of spores into the air contaminating an office and even an entire building. In addition, it would not be cost prohibitive to the state to inspect annually. Thank you again for your time, attention and consideration to this matter.