



NEW HAVEN CENTRAL HOSPITAL FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

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February 3, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Kenneth Aldrich, Director at the New Haven Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine, Inc.

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees.

We already offer staff paid time off, but not in the formula being presented. As a company that attempts to responsibly provide benefits to our staff, I am very concerned about the effects of HB-6187. Especially during these difficult times, the offering of benefits is a financial balancing act, attempting to reward staff and maintain a fiscal balance for the business. With our sales already down over the past several months, any increase in benefit cost would require us to decrease other benefit costs or reduce staff. I think the marketplace is the best pressure to require benefits, not the legislature. If a business is not providing appropriate paid time off, insurance, etc, people will be less likely to work there and therefore the business will need to add benefits. Blanket requirements like this are bad for businesses and, at a time when budgets are being slashed, workers as well.

I urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

Kenneth Aldrich