



Connecticut Lodging
Association
PO Box 1058
Glastonbury, CT 06033
Phone: 860-635-5600
Fax: 860-659-8772
Email: info@ctlodging.org
www.ctlodging.org

Simon A. Flynn
Executive Director

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Chuck Moran and I am the President of the Connecticut Lodging Association, a statewide organization of Connecticut lodging properties. I am here to testify on behalf of the lodging industry in opposition to HB 6187 – An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.

In the hotel business, employees are the very backbone of our industry. Our business is about the service that our employees provide to our customers.

We treat our employees fairly, pay them well, and provide them with every opportunity for training and advancement available. We are, if you will, in the opportunity business.

However, we are just that, a business, and we must stay in business in order to provide jobs and opportunity.

Quite frankly, many of our properties are just hanging on. Our occupancy rates have been drastically affected; I often hear that people have never seen it worse than it is right now.

We care very much about our employees and we're doing everything we can to hang on to them. Please don't place further burden on the lodging industry. We are laying off and moving full time employees to part time work. Increased costs will mean the loss of more jobs and increased difficulty in competing with out of state properties for business and leisure travelers.

I would like to speak in support of SB 222 – An Act to Increase the Tip Credit. The restaurant business in a hotel is a difficult and challenging aspect of hotel operation. The margins, just as in the restaurant business itself, are narrow.

Historically, Connecticut wait staff is paid by a combination of tipped and cash wages. The result is that they are highly compensated. It is also important to note that the restaurant pays taxes on all the earnings including the tips. Connecticut falls well short of the tip credit available in other New England states and to much of the country. A higher tip credit will allow us to sustain our business and provide resources for the non-tipped personnel in the kitchen. This is a bill that is good for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I would be happy to reply to any questions you may have.