

**Testimony of Dena Fleno in Favor of
HB 6187, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave To Employees
Tuesday, February 24th, 2009**

My name is Dena Fleno and I write this testimony in support of **HB 6187, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave To Employees.**

As a former home day care provider, I saw firsthand the effect that non-existent or inadequate paid sick days had on the families I served. Many parents were working hard to make ends meet, and either had too few or no paid sick days.

Since the choice to stay home and miss a days pay would be more detrimental to a family's well-being, kids would get dropped off with contagious illnesses to spread around. Even though I enforced my policy of no sick children coming to the daycare, desperate parents would find ways to get around it so they wouldn't have to miss work, such as medicating kids in the morning so they appeared healthy at drop-off. Also, I can't imagine that productivity those days were very good, since concerned parents were constantly checking in on their children and finding it hard to concentrate at work.

This choice is not fair to anyone involved- the parents, the sick child, the other children in the daycare, or me. Mandating that employers provide adequate paid sick time to their employees is a preventative way to help reduce the number of illnesses in daycares and other highly susceptible places.

Thank you,

Dena Fleno