February 4, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Michael D Garfield, President at Garfield Builders Inc. Home Remodeling Specialist and General Contractor located at 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village Ct. 06031

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 currently are a small business giving our employees paid health insurance, 401K and paid vacation. If we are required to supply them with 50 hours of paid sick leave per year, how do we cover this cost and the other benefits we supply. We would need to reduce the benefits they already receive in order to cover this cost. It is already expensive to run a business in the State of Connecticut, this I feel is going to put some out of business and force others to move to another state. We always hear where the State of Connecticut is a friendly place to own a business, we have high business insurance cost, high workers compensation cost, high health insurance cost, a high cost of living and now we have to supply paid sick leave by State Mandate. Where is the friendly part?

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

Signed,

Michael D. Garfield
President
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