

**Gloria Duquette**  
**Testimony for Labor and Public Employees Committee**  
**HB 6187**

Good afternoon.

Thank you for giving me a chance to testify today.

My name is Gloria Duquette. I am here to support the paid sick days bill.

I live in Hartford and I am a certified nurses assistant. I work in home healthcare, taking care of sick and elderly patients. I've been doing this for three years and I have never received a paid sick day.

I work full time, sometimes 7 days a week to make enough money to pay my rent and utility bills and to send a little money to help take care of my parents and my seventeen year-old son who are back in Jamaica.

Each week I make a schedule of which bills I can pay, day by day for each bill. This day I work for my light bill, this day goes towards rent, this day for my parents. If I miss a day's pay, I can't afford one of these things. So I can't afford to miss a single day. I don't have a choice.

If I get sick I have to go to work anyway because I can't afford to lose those days. Last month I had the flu, I had a fever and everything. But I still went to work. I know it isn't healthy, but like I said, I don't have a choice. It isn't healthy for me and it isn't healthy for my clients.

I know I am not alone. There are other nurses aid and homecare workers who don't get sick days – probably most of us don't get sick days. But we're the ones who take care of sick and elderly people and that's how illnesses get spread.

When you vote on this bill, please think about me and my clients. And think about your own family members who may be in a nursing home or have a home health aid who does not get sick days. This will make all of us healthier.