

HB 6187

**AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID
SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES.**

Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to support **House Bill 6187: "An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees."**

Data from the Institute for Women's Policy Research indicates that almost half of workers in the private sector do not have any paid sick days. Millions more are not allowed to use their sick days for their children. Parents and families should not have to choose between the jobs they need and the children they love.

My 38 years of experience as a nurse, an emergency room nurse, a pediatric nurse, and 24 years as a school nurse and nursing supervisor support is offered as you consider this issue. As a school nurse, I know that parents send sick children to school hoping that, when the school nurse calls, the boss will let them leave work. Sick children spend hours waiting for parents unable to leave work. Parents have literally been on the phone with me, crying because they will not get paid if they leave work for their sick child or, worse, they will be fired. I have had parents beg me to keep their child in the health room for the day because they cannot leave work. They know it isn't the right thing to do but they have no recourse. Instead of getting the care they need, children miss valuable learning time and expose others to illness.

In addition to acute illnesses or injuries, parental work situations can jeopardize well child care. Parents cannot afford time off to get their children physical examinations, immunizations, or preventive care. Children lose days from school because they are out of compliance with state laws mandating physical examinations and immunizations. Lost school days put children behind academically and in life. For children with chronic health conditions, like asthma or diabetes, preventive care is essential. Utilizing walk-in centers or emergency rooms, before or after work hours, fragments care, bypasses their "medical home", if they have one, and results in increased costs for health care.

ASNC and NASN support giving workers the time they need to care for themselves and their children. We urge you to support HB 6187. Thank you.

"In School, In Class, Ready to Learn": School Nurses Make the Difference."

Respectfully submitted,

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