

February 4, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Vera-Lynn Guibbory, Co-Owner of Bali Handcrafts, dba Vera Wolf located on the Historic Guilford Green. We have been in business since 1986. This past year has been most difficult and we have been reevaluating our benefits to help in the cost of doing business. The hardest part for us is that we know we have a direct impact on our employees' quality of life.

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. Presently, our employees are eligible for paid time off whether they use it for vacation, personal or sick time. If required, this proposal will substantially increase our business costs and would force us to cut other other benefits.

We pay each full time employee a portion of their health insurance premium. We pay for holidays. We are very flexible with time off for taking care of personal issues. There is not a month when an employee calls in sick, (usually on a Monday or Friday) or has a sick child. This costs us business revenues. Recently, I paid for Jury Duty for two employees. I was surprised to know that this was required by law. It made me rethink our benefits policies. We are now considering cutting employee hours but not enough so that they can still be eligible for health insurance. We would have to require each employee to bring in a doctor's note in order to be paid for these sick days. Therefore, the employee will have to pay a \$30-\$45 co-pay as long as they have their health insurance. I don't think this will benefit the employees.

I strongly urge you to reject this proposal. Please help the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

Vera-Lynn Guibbory

