



**TESTIMONY
BART RUSSELL
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS (COST)
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2010
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**

RE: SB – 63, AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *opposes HB-63*, which requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave.

In many small towns, the smaller “Mom & Pop” businesses are the life-blood of the economy. To impose a mandate such as this would be severely harmful to businesses especially during the tough economic times that we are experiencing.

In addition, this mandate would weaken a business’ ability to compete with other states. For many years Connecticut has been one of the highest cost states to do business. Passage of this measure will only intensify that fact.

When faced with increased personnel costs and inflexible government mandates, many businesses may simply decide to stay small rather than expand and add jobs to our economy. Furthermore, in the some instances they may have to close their business. Those measures would have a stifling effect on entrepreneurship, which is absolutely critical to maintaining a healthy economy of our small towns, large cities and the state of Connecticut as a whole.

Therefore, COST urges your *opposition to SB-63*.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.