

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB-63 for Paid Sick Days  
Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 2010

Testimony in support of Paid Sick Days Legislation:

I am an avid supporter of requiring business to give their employees paid sick days. I used to work as a Private Duty Home Health Aid for 11 years with no paid sick days at all and limited health care. Now, I work for Allied Health but still do not have paid sick days.

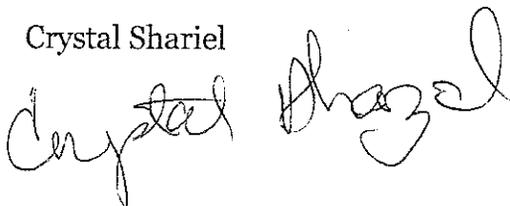
Since my job requires my coworkers and I to take care of elderly individuals, we are encouraged to stay home when we are sick. However, if we miss more than a day our jobs are put at risk, even if we bring in a doctor's note. That is why I try to go to work even when I do not feel well. For example, last year I went to work sick when I had a bacterial infection in my intestine. I tried to work through it but I ended up having to go to the emergency room. I stayed in the hospital for a few days to recover from my illness. I almost got fired because my boss wanted me to immediately return to work. Not only would have paid sick days let me recover without fearing that I would lose my job, but it could have prevented me getting sick in the first place, I could have seen a doctor earlier or at least stayed at home to get better.

Also, it is very difficult raising children without paid sick days. Children are inevitably going to get sick at some time and many times I was forced to take days off to take care of them, but I did not get paid. This makes it very hard to keep up with my bills, such as rent, medical bills and money to support my family.

I hope that you support the paid sick days legislation. We have waited too long for this. Every politician talks about health care reform, but this is something we can do right now to help people with getting good healthcare. I hope I can get your support on this issue.

Thank you,

Crystal Shariel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Shariel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.