



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

February 25, 2010

Labor & Public Employees Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Lynn Ward and I am the President and CEO of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber represents 6,971 employers in a 13 town region. On behalf of our board of directors and members I am asking that you oppose Senate Bill 63- "An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees".

It is our belief that this bill will be harmful to all businesses in the State of Connecticut. With a record number of business closings or relocations and an increasing unemployment rate nearing 10% - with the City of Waterbury's staggering unemployment rate of 15%, it is alarming to consider the detrimental effect this bill will have on employers and ultimately their workforce.

Putting people back to work and helping businesses survive is where we urge you to focus. Connecticut is already one of the most business-unfriendly states in the nation. To successfully improve our economy we need to provide a climate for opportunities not more mandates. Increasing labor costs and more government interference will only exacerbate the systemic negative business climate that already exists.

Preventing the passage of this bill is crucial to the future well-being of our economy and to all residents of Connecticut. If this bill becomes law employers will be faced with making decisions that can negatively affect employees much greater than being paid for a few sick days a year. Simply said this bill is bad for business, bad for employment opportunities, bad for economic development and bad for the economy of the State of Connecticut. To be pro-jobs you must be pro-business; one does not exist without the other.

Respectfully,

Lynn G. Ward
President & CEO