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To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Kathleen Bellemare, Director of Human Resources at The Connecticut Spring & Stamping Corporation, 48 Spring Lane, Farmington, CT 06034

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-63, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees.

Our business remains slow by stable. We have been able to keep our costs down by participating in The Department of Labor's Work Shared Program. Our employees work 32 hours and collect Unemployment Compensation for one day. We experienced double digit benefit increases in 2010 and tried to take on more of the cost. We are trying all we can to keep 334 employees gainfully employed with as many benefits as we can afford. We recently changed our policy from a vacation "only" policy to a PTO (Paid Time Off) policy. We added three additional days to their time and now allow the time to be taken for any reason (i.e. vacation, sick time, personal time). Additionally our employees can carry over a maximum of one year to the next.

It seems so unreasonable to expect companies who are already experiencing a weak business environment to yet again pay more toward benefits.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

Kathleen Bellemare
Director of Human Resources