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February 25, 2010

To Members of the Labor Committee:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Legislative Committee, the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. The reason for our letter is to express opposition to Senate Bill 63, which would require Connecticut employers of 50 or more hourly and non-exempt workers to give a minimum of 1 hour paid time off for every 40 hours an employee works. Our membership believes that this bill represents a blanket approach that will negatively affect economic growth in Connecticut at the worst possible time.

The Middlesex Chamber is a dynamic business organization with over 2,450 members that employ over 50,000 people. Our membership ranges from Fortune 500 companies to local micro businesses and each one of these businesses has a unique relationship with its employees. This paid sick leave proposal will undoubtedly make companies think twice about adding more jobs and will further increase already high costs when we need to be exploring ways to do just the opposite. If this were to become law, a company that has just over 50 employees might downsize so they would not be affected and companies that are just under 50 employees might hesitate to expand and add jobs. In essence, mandating paid sick leave is a flawed "one size fits all" approach that the members of the Middlesex Chamber urge you to reject.

In closing, we would like to reiterate our opposition to Senate Bill 63. The members of our Chamber look forward to working with the General Assembly as we collectively deal with very challenging times. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rich Carella
Co Chair
Legislative Committee

Rick Parmelee
Co Chair
Legislative Committee

Jeff Pugliese
Government Affairs
Middlesex Chamber

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Awards: Governor's Laurel Award for Responsible Social Involvement, President's White House Citation for Private Sector Initiatives
U.S. Department of Labor LIFT America Award, Connecticut Small Business Advocate Award, Vision 2000 Excellence Award
NAACP Business Award