

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

February 9, 2010

Testimony on paid sick days legislation to the Labor Committee:

I write to ask you to please support paid sick day legislation, I think I heard that you have in the past. I don't have any sick days.

I have been a school bus driver in Trumbull for the past 3 years and I do not have paid sick days. You know what it's like. I have a lot of bills to keep up with, therefore I never take a day off, even if I am really sick, because I need a full paycheck to pay rent, food, gas, etc.

The lack of paid sick days creates many problems for me and other bus drivers. One problem with not having paid sick days is that it is very difficult to take care of my two young children, if they ever get sick. Also, as a bus driver I take many children to school every day, therefore when I come in sick I am putting at risk the health and safety of many kids. I deal with many children, parents and coworkers everyday, so when I get sick its best for me not to go to work. I think it is important to make sure bus drivers, who have one of the most important jobs out there, have paid sick days so they do not come in sick and put in risk the lives of children. But we even get demerits when we call out sick without pay.

Also, kids spread germs quite easily, therefore there are chances that they will get me sick at some point through out the year. The solution to these problems would be paid sick days so I would not have to worry about falling behind on my bills. Supporting paid sick day legislation would be an urgent issue because our children's safety is supposed to be a priority. So please support legislation making it possible for us to do our jobs in the safest way possible. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Julien