



TO: MEMBERS OF THE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
FROM: SUE O'CONNOR, PRESIDENT
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2010
RE: SENATE BILL 63, PAID SICK LEAVE

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, a business organization representing roughly 500 businesses from 31 different towns in the State opposes Senate Bill 63, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.

This proposal will substantially increase business costs to our members and could force them to reevaluate any other benefits they provide for their employees. Businesses need to be able to hire and retain good employees. Most businesses have sick time policies in place, along with other benefits, and most provide for their employees to the best of their ability. Benefit packages based on market conditions, competition, and overall work flow, are often discussed and negotiated privately with employees prior to being hired.

The Chamber sees businesses struggling through this unpredictable, lengthy recession, and businesses need the flexibility to be allowed to set their own policies based on their individual situations, without the State mandating their workplace policies. Yesterday, at Business Day at the Capitol, we heard from legislators that the goal of Connecticut is to see its businesses grow, prosper, and create jobs in our State. In the opinion of the Manchester Chamber, passing bills like SB-63 do nothing to support this goal.

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce urges you to reject Senate Bill 63. Instead, the Chamber urges you to work with Connecticut's businesses to help reduce the cost of doing business in our State, to truly achieve its goal to see its businesses grow, prosper, and create jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue O'Connor, President

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce ~ 20 Hartford Road, Manchester CT 06040
Phone: 860 646-2223 ~ Fax: 860 646-5871 ~ Visit us on the Web: www.manchesterchamber.com