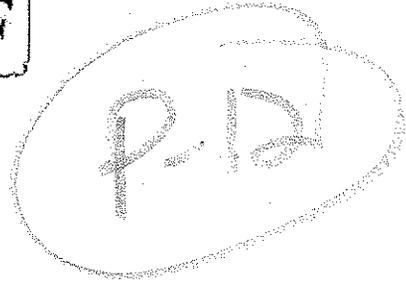




30 Arbor St. Suite 210
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 523-1699

<http://connecticutworkingfamilies.org/>



February 24, 2011

To the Co-Chairs and members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Testimony in support of HB-6406, AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS.

Submitted by Lindsay Farrell, Organizing Director

Working Families supports HB 6406 for the simple reason that employer's should keep their commitments to their employees, especially now at a time when more and more families depend on the basic benefits most employers provide.

As wages stagnate, and families increasingly rely on all adults in the household to be breadwinners, benefits such as paid sick leave, maternity leave, and medical coverage become all the more essential. This modern economy needs to protect and encourage benefits that allow families to manage the balance between family and work obligations in a healthy way.

Our only criticism is that this bill does not go far enough – more needs to be done to ensure that workers and families have some basic benefits to manage their health and not be put in a position where they are forced to choose between their health and their jobs. Just as we need a minimum wage to set a basic standard for compensation, I encourage legislators to support legislation that makes healthcare available to more workers and a few days of paid sick time guaranteed for all workers.

Thank you.