

To: Members of the Connecticut Legislature

From: Tom Mercaldo, President, Aquinas Consulting.

Re: SB 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees

Dear Honorable member of the legislature;

My company is in the business of helping people find jobs. It is a difficult jobs environment in CT right now as more and more jobs are being lost to locations in other states because of the cost of employing people in Connecticut, and because of employer mandates imposed by the legislature. So it is hard to understand why in an environment where employers are letting employees go left and right, the state is considering imposing another employer mandate.

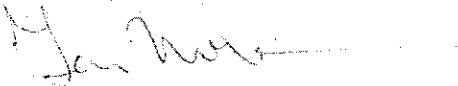
As a temporary services provider, we have the option to perform services either in our Milford, CT office or in our offices in Atlanta, Minnesota, Florida, NY, or Utah. There is no question that this legislation will incentivize us to continue moving jobs to Atlanta and Utah. Further we have the ability to hire people overseas and currently have 2 staffers supporting us in India. This legislation makes the idea of shifting jobs overseas even more compelling where we do not need to provide employees with any benefits, including paid time off.

As president of the company and it is my goal to expand employment in Milford and not to move any jobs to other states or countries. But I report to a board and it is getting difficult to justify my position. While this legislation seems high minded, in many cases it will hurt the people it is intended to help. Today some folks that are out of work have a choice to make. To take a job with no benefits or to stay out of work. If this legislation is passed, these people will have a new choice. To take a job out of state that has no benefits or to stay unemployed. I think most people that live in CT will prefer option 1.

I am in the business of helping out of work people get jobs. These are often temporary jobs that are not meant to be careers but are designed to temporarily provide some income while people look for something better. This has become an extremely difficult thing to do in this economy. If this legislation passes, I will have to charge more for these services. That's going to cost some people a job opportunity, or they are going to have to take less pay. Most of these people would rather get paid a little more than have sick time. This legislation is not in the best interest of job seekers.

I encourage you to reject this legislation.

Best regards,



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