

913

10 February 2011

To whom it may concern:

Senate Bill #913 and the paid sick days that it would require businesses to require are beneficial not only to the individual worker, but the general public, as well. As a person who has worked in a couple of different minimum-wage jobs in food service and retail, I have personally experienced and witnessed the ~~problems and hardships~~ troubles that workers face without paid sick days. While working as a cashier at Kwik's Department Store, I had zero sick or vacation days. If one was ill and had to leave work early, he or she was demerited. If one was too ill to come into work, he or she was asked to find replacement. If unable to find replacement (or if the scheduled replacement ~~was~~ did not appear at work), one would be demerited. These demerits add up and could lead to the termination of a job. This bill would enable employees to earn sick days that they could use without fear of punishment. Not only does this encourage good health with the individual employee, but it benefits the health and safety of the general public.

When one considers the people who would most benefit from required sick days, the people that come to mind are the lower-class, minorities, women, young and old

people. These people often work ~~part~~ part-time and/or minimum-wage jobs that deal directly with the public (retail/public service/restaurants). All these people are ill and cannot afford to take a non-paid sick day (for whatever reason — that they cannot afford to miss the paid day or they may lose their job), they will go to work and expose the public to illness. This is how illness spreads and epidemics start. The paid sick day is a small price to pay compared to wide-spread illness. SB #913 is a wonderful way to protect the general public and the individual worker. I urge all Senators to vote for the act's passage.

Thank you,

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