



William A. Manthey
Vice President/CFO

February 23, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is William A. Manthey, Vice President and CFO at Bridgeport Fittings, Inc. in Stratford, CT.

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. In looking at the bill it is my understanding that language in this bill counts any vacation/paid time off as meeting the sick pay requirements. This means that for our company which has a policy that gives employees time off we would not be affected. Nevertheless I am writing to oppose this bill.

The problem I and most others have with this bill is the negative perception of Connecticut it will give to the rest of the world regarding the business environment in Connecticut. We are currently viewed as a State with high energy and tax costs. Becoming the first State in the nation to have a mandatory sick pay bill will add to this image. Please realize that our State competes with every other State in trying to attract new businesses to employ its citizens. Other States will throw this out to make companies fear locating here. You know they'll make this appear to be a first step in further burdening employers. Employers will feel safer locating in neighboring States.

Our unemployment is very high. Most of the jobs that do not pay sick pay are near minimum wage which people are forced to take because of the lack of manufacturing and higher level employers in the State. Through this bill you are discouraging employers from bringing the higher paying jobs that people want in order to get them benefits in jobs they've been forced to take because of the lack of said higher wage positions. You are perpetuating the under-employment of citizens through this bill.

I urge you to reject this bill. Thank you.

Signed,

William A. Manthey
VP/CFO