

March 1, 2011

9/13

Testimony in Support of SB 913

My name is Dawn Taylor. I live in East Hartford, CT, and I support the paid sick day's legislation.

Workers need and deserve paid sick days. People should not be punished simply because they are sick or need to care for a sick family member. I have a disabled parent and I am often called on to take care of her when she is sick. I should not be punished simply for providing the care that my parent needs.

I work at a large downtown Hartford firm where I receive paid time off days that I can utilize for illness or vacation. Having those days allows me to take care of myself or my parent. However, it means giving up vacation when I care for my parent. It would be optimal to have both paid time off and sick days in order to better handle the day to day stresses of caring for a disabled parent as well as allowing some down time for myself. The benefits to both the employee and business at large are immeasurable. Businesses do not have to reform their policies but allow a few extra paid sick days per year to those in need – both the employee and the individual being cared for. Many workers don't have any options at all. This bill would give them at least a few days off.

Allowing employees a few days off means having a happier, loyal and more productive work force. A paid sick day not only allows workers to take care of themselves and their families; paid sick days will also benefit business. When employees go to work sick, they are not as productive and will risk infecting coworkers. By allowing that employee to stay home and recover, they will be able to return to work at a faster pace than if they were to work while being sick.

Please support the paid sick day's bill. Employees should be able to care for themselves or a loved one in the case of an illness without the added stress of using paid time off days that come at a premium.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Dawn M. Taylor*

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