

Testimony from Debra Warner
Plainville, CT
March 2011

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Committee on Labor and Public Employees in support of Senate Bill 913 for Paid Sick Days.

I would like to express my support for the paid sick leave legislation. As a fortunate parent, I am offered a version of paid sick leave at my workplace. Medical issues that I have endured would have caused much stress for myself and my family if I were not able to take the time to get well.

I have worked at my current place of employment for 11 years. I have a history of back problems. There was a time that my back would go out for no reason and I would be in excruciating pain to the point where not only could I not go to work, I couldn't even stand. I had no choice but to stay home. My company has time allotment days, which can be used as vacation time or sick time. Since my company has this benefit for their employees, I was able to get paid for the days that I was not able to go to work. If my company did not have this benefit for their employees I would not have been paid for those days.

I am married and I have three children. Both my husband and I work full time with the benefit of paid sick time. My husband's paycheck covered the household bills and my check paid for before and after school care for my youngest child. This included groceries and doctor's bills. If I did not get paid for these days, I don't know how I would have paid any of these bills. I can't imagine anyone being put in this position wondering which bill they wouldn't pay so that they could buy food for their children.

I appreciate your attention to this bill and hope that you will make the right decision for Connecticut. This issue affects everybody and everybody would certainly benefit from its passing into law. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Debra Warner