

Dennis Pistone
President, Westchester Book Group
Danbury, CT

9/B

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 913:

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My company began in my dining room in 1974, and grew to become an international company, affiliated with other companies overseas as well as still employing over 50 individuals in our Danbury location. We have provided employment opportunities to thousands of individuals in Connecticut through the years, and have always offered paid sick days.

At our company, all full-time employees earn paid sick days, starting the first of the month following their date of hire. Part-time employees are entitled to pro-rated sick time.

An employee may accumulate up to six sick days. Once an employee has accumulated a "bank" of six sick days, he or she will receive well pay (one days pay for each unused sick day) for all days accumulated over the "bank" of six sick days -- at the end of the fiscal year.

I feel that both Well Days and Sick Days need to be built into the design of a company in order to make positions enticing in a competitive market as well as in order to ensure employee productivity. I have not seen any negative effect from offering paid sick days and have not experienced the added bookkeeping strain that others have expressed concerned over.

I urge you to pass SB 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees, so that all eligible employees in Connecticut can have the benefits they deserve and earn.

Dennis Pistone
Westchester Book Group
4 Old Newtown Road
Danbury, CT 06810