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24 February 2011

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Connecticut's proposed legislation to require paid sick days

As a Connecticut voter who has operated a small business for more than 25 years, I fully support the proposed CT state law requiring a modest number of paid sick days.

I would rather pay for a sick or injured worker to stay home than for the person to come to work and be unproductive. "Presenteeism" -- coming to work while sick or injured -- creates a negative mood in the workplace, as well as possibly spreading a contagious illness. Staying home is especially important when a parent needs to stay home with a sick child, as it can prevent that child's schoolmates from getting sick.

In addition, by staying home, workers will have a chance to get well so they will not miss future work days due to complications. When workers keep coming to work instead of staying home, they increase the risk of an injury getting re-injured or a simple illness like a common cold developing into something worse like bronchitis or pneumonia.

Paying workers for a few sick days each year is the right thing to do, but unless we have a state law requiring it, there will always be employers who want to cut corners. When they do that, they put ethical employers who want to the right thing at an unfair disadvantage.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Elsa Peterson, President  
Elsa Peterson Ltd.