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CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

Public Hearing Testimony of
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 1, 2011

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of paid sick leave. My name is Glenn Marshall and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I am proud to be here today testifying in support of paid sick leave because I strongly believe that every full-time working person should have access to this benefit. As the former president of Carpenters Union Local 210 and now as the Labor Commissioner, I am proud to have worked well with both organized labor and Connecticut businesses. As I have experienced first-hand, it is possible for the labor and business communities to come together on behalf of the people of the State of Connecticut.

There is no doubt that in these tough economic times we need to have a responsible approach to decision making and an ability to work with broad-based coalitions. It is my duty as the Department of Labor Commissioner to find new and unique ways to ensure our state's labor force is protected, while our state's business community thrives.

In addition, paid sick leave affects those employers that have proven to be able to absorb a short term absence of an employee under the federal and state FMLA. Employers with 50 or more employees are already subject to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides a significantly greater leave entitlement (unpaid) - 12 weeks over a 12 month period. Similarly, the Connecticut FMLA affects those employers with 75 or more employees and provides eligible employees up to 16 weeks of leave over a 2 year period. This is a concept that will help the working men and women and employers of this state by promoting a safe and healthy workplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.