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February 25, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

Re: An Act Mandating Employer's Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees

My name is Jennifer O'Brien, my brother and I are the 2nd generation of our family involved in our business, Canton Racing Products. My father started Canton Racing Products in our garage in Guilford, CT almost 30 years ago. We are a manufacturer of high performance automotive accessories, currently located on North Branford, CT.

It is not easy to be a small business owner, especially a manufacturer here in Connecticut. I am very discouraged to hear about SB-913, which would require employers to provide paid sick leave. As a small business I have been doing everything I can to keep my business going and my employees employed during these tough economic times. This bill would negatively impact my ability to both hire new employees and to provide wage increases and additional benefits to my current employees.

A very rough estimate of what this bill might cost my business annually exceeds \$20,000, although I anticipate it would exceed that amount. What could a small business owner do with \$20,000? She could replace her old tube-bending machine with a newer more efficient model. Or she could hire an additional sales person to try and grow her sales numbers. When her health insurance comes up for renewal this spring she could continue to share 50% of the premium costs with her employees. Best of all she could finally give pay increases to her employees that have weathered this bad economic storm with her for the past 3 years. The fear that this mandate could become law makes her rethink all these plans because she cannot afford to do both.

I am urging you to reject this proposal. During these financially difficult times I would hope that legislature would be working towards reducing the costs of doing business in Connecticut and making it easier to do business owners to hire more people and grow their businesses rather than making it more difficult to stay in business.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Signed,

Jennifer O'Brien
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