

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Testimony for Public Hearing, March 1, 2011

SB 913

**AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO
EMPLOYEES.**

My name is Jessica Martinez, and I drive a school bus in West Hartford. I am writing in support of **SB 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.**

Drivers in West Hartford don't have paid sick days, and we don't make enough money to take unpaid days off unless it's an emergency. I see drivers come to work sick all the time. Sometimes we come to work very sick.

A year or so ago I had a serious infection in one of my teeth. On top of that, I needed surgery to fix the problem that caused the infection in the first place. My surgery was scheduled for a Thursday afternoon. I worked in the morning, and took the afternoon off unpaid. I was unable to come to work on Friday so I lost another day of pay. On Monday morning, I was still in a lot of pain.

Since I can't take strong pain medication when I'm driving a bus, and I can't take days off without losing pay, I had to go to work that day and I had to skip medication my doctor had prescribed. The pain was unbearable. I couldn't focus on anything else, which means I was distracted while I was driving. I'm lucky I wasn't in an accident.

If I had paid sick days, I definitely would have used one that day. I don't want to see children put in danger because their driver can't take a day off. Please support paid sick days for us and for the safety of the children we drive.

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