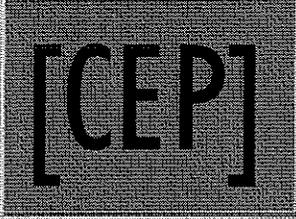


9/13



Chief Executive Productions, LLC

John Phillips-Sandy: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 913

March 1, 2011

As an owner and partner of a small business, I am here to voice my support for Senate Bill 913.

Eight years ago, I first came to Connecticut as an aspiring jazz saxophonist to attend the University of Hartford. Four years later, I proudly graduated with my performance degree and had to face the music. As it turns out, jazz saxophone is not the booming industry of the 21st century. However, for me and two of my close friends (both of whom also came to Connecticut from other states), our time studying music and business taught us to be independently creative. In that spirit, we did something that I believe far too few young people are doing in this state. We made Connecticut our permanent home and established our own business: Chief Executive Productions.

In the three years of our existence, we have worked on over 200 different performances in a variety of roles, all while holding down other jobs and personal music careers.

While running a small business means long and stressful days, it also means that we have each personally invested not just time but also passion for our work. For us to succeed, it is imperative that we recognize that investment. Since our very first day as a company, we have held to our mandate that each member of the company receives equal compensation as a reflection of our belief that a small business is a team effort. In our first year of business, one of my partners grappled with the ongoing effects of mono. In the second year, I dealt with a medical crisis in my family. The occasional flu or cold still strikes at one of us with no regard for our business schedule. Illness is a fact of life, but we stick to our policy of full pay even when one of us is sick. It recognizes our efforts, and it is the right way to build our business.

This state has afforded me the chance of a lifetime: to own a business in a field that I love. I only hope that more young enterprising minds will choose to work in small businesses here in Connecticut. Small business is the engine of innovation that will move our state forward and make it a place for people to visit, work, and live. To ensure that that engine runs smoothly, it is imperative that this bill pass and paid sick days become a right for all small business employees. They are all important members of the team, and their investment in their work and in our society must be recognized. I urge this committee to pass this bill and support its passage in the General Assembly.

Thank you.