

Tender Living Care, Inc.

Homemakers • Companions
117 New London Tpke.
Glastonbury, CT 06033

February 24, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Karen Soule. I am the Vice President of Tender Living Care, Inc., a Homemaker-Companion Agency for the Elderly in Glastonbury, Connecticut. I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. These are very difficult times for our business. Insurance rates for Tender Living Care, Inc. increased by 30% this year; the minimum wage was raised by 3.125% as of January 1, 2010 and the requirement for participants of the Home Care Program for Elders to pay 6% of the cost of their services has resulted in a considerable number of clients dropping out of the program with the subsequent reduction in income.

As a provider for the Home Care Program for Elders, we are being reimbursed at very low rates (some rates are lower than when we started participating in the program in 1993). The last increase of 2.9% took place almost 4 years ago. In the meantime minimum wages were up by 7.28% and the cost of living increased by more than 8.5%. The approval of bill SB-913 under the current economic circumstances would only further increase the cost of doing business in the State of Connecticut. Furthermore, it will result in no pay raises, discontinuance of benefits, such as medical insurance, and may even increase the unemployment rate as we will be forced to freeze hiring and may have to discontinue current positions.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Karen J. Soule
Vice President
Tender Living Care, Inc.

