



February 24, 2011

TO: Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee

Subject: Reject SB913 Mandatory Paid Time Off

We are asking for your support in **opposition** to SB-913, an Act mandating employers to provide paid sick leave to employees.

As a provider of home health care we are trying to maintain a delicate balance between the increasing costs of doing business in the State of Connecticut and keeping rates affordable for seniors and others who pay out of pocket for their services. A mandate to pay sick time will result in higher payroll costs. Unlike other types of businesses, our services are provided in the home on a "one to one" basis. Under this bill we would have to pay sick time to the ill worker and also pay the replacement worker with no ability to recoup this additional cost. We operate with very small profit margins and simply cannot afford to absorb this additional cost.

Furthermore, for those of us who contract with the State of Connecticut, under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and with the Department of Social Services, our reimbursement rates have not increased since 2007, yet we have incurred higher minimum wage mandates, higher worker compensation insurance rates, increased unemployment contribution rates, higher transportation costs and numerous other cost increases.

We value our dedicated employees and would like to provide additional benefits. Unfortunately given our dependence on State run programs that do not recognize the "true" cost of providing services, and the inability to pass on these costs to our clients, we risk business failure should we be forced to provide sick time.

Thank you for your consideration.

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