



Diocese of Norwich

St. Joseph Living Center

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February 25, 2011

TO: Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee
SUBJECT: Reject SB 913: Mandatory Paid Time Off

I am the Administrator of Saint Joseph Living Center, located in Windham, CT. We are a 120 bed, not-for-profit short term rehabilitation and long term care facility, employing approximately 200 staff members. As a health care provider, we clearly understand the importance of not having sick employees report to the workplace. However, in this business climate, I cannot support SB 913 for mandatory paid time off.

Our employees working over twenty (20) hours per week receive sick time, pro-rated for the number of hours they work. A forty (40) hour per week employee receives 12 days (96) hours of sick time yearly. We also have many per diem employees, without regularly scheduled hours. Many of these individuals choose to work per diem for their personal commitments. Other employees choose a no benefit option for a higher rate of pay. Passage of this bill would necessitate a potential change to our benefits program, which may adversely impact the staff that this bill is seeking to assist. In calculating the potential economic cost to extend this requirement to our entire workforce, I estimate the cost to be an additional \$16,000.00 per year.

As I am sure you are aware, the long term care industry has not received a Medicaid increase for several years. This year's budget proposal includes a provision for an increase to the Provider Tax for nursing homes. While I realize the concept behind this proposed legislation is important, now is not the time to place additional economic requirements on an already struggling industry.

I respectfully request that you reconsider SB 913 and urge you to vote against passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lynn Iverson
Administrator