

**M. J. CHIRONNA
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913

Testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 913
An Act mandating employers provide paid sick leave to employees
The Labor Committee

March 2011

Dear Legislators:

I am in favor of proposed senate bill number 913, an act mandating employers provide paid sick leave to employees, and would hope that you support it. My name is M.J. Chironna and I am a resident of Norwalk. I have also been a working parent for a total of thirteen years.

As a working mother, I have had to choose between sending my children to school sick, going to work with my sick children, or taking time off from work to care for my children. These have not been easy decisions and have had consequences.

The consequences of sending my children to school sick have included not taking care of my children when they are ill and infecting the children and teachers at the schools. Sometimes a mother has no choice but to bring their child to work with them when their child is sick. I had to bring my child to work when one of my children had pink eye. I was later reprimanded for bringing in a child with an contagious condition. The employees of my company were exposed to pink eye, but what else could I have done? Finally, the consequence of taking time off from work to care for my children decreases my paycheck. These decisions would not have to be made by many parents if senate bill number 913 is passed.

Over the years, I have been much more dedicated to the companies that have provided the benefits of sick days. If I have been out of work due to sick time, I have been a much more committed and efficient employee to these organizations. In addition, I have worked at these companies for longer periods of time.

Passing this bill will relieve many families of unneeded financial stress as well as positively impact business throughout the state. I encourage you all to support this bill as a reflection of your understanding of the unfortunate realities many face on a daily basis.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

M.J. Chironna