

913

Testimony from Marc Mastraichio

West Haven, CT

March 2011

*Committee on Labor and Public Employees in support of
Senate Bill 913 for Paid Sick Days.*

It is very important that you vote for paid sick days legislation this year. There are too many people risking the health and safety of others with the obligation of going into work sick.

I am currently not working due to an injury but for the past 20 years I have had a union job as a roofer, and have not had paid sick days. After six months on workers compensation my health care has been revoked. This has made matters even worse. At a time when I need them most, these benefits are not available to me. As a foreman, I hear about many of the worker's problems such as having to come into work sick.

My field of work is very dangerous; often we work on large skyscrapers and do heavy-duty work, yet when someone is sick they are still expected to come in to work. Not only is coming into work sick dangerous for the workers, but they are putting the health of their coworkers at risk. Due to the nature of our work we are exposed to the elements and rough weather more so than in most lines of work making us more vulnerable to illness.

I have had guys come into work with fevers because they cannot afford to lose a day's worth of pay. Many of my coworkers and I are supporting families, and with the harsh economic climate it is especially difficult to lose any money from a paycheck.

The ultimate health and safety of my fellow workers and myself will not be ensured until there is a paid sick days standard in the state of Connecticut. I appreciate your attention to this issue and urge you to make paid sick days a reality for the hard working people of Connecticut.