

913

*Testimony from Mark Davis
East Hartford, CT
March 2011*

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

I am in favor of the proposal for a paid sick leave mandate in the state of Connecticut. As a worker at a local Dunkin Donuts I am not offered any form of paid sick leave and pay the consequences whether they are physical or financial.

We are told to stay home when we are sick. It makes sense to have a sick employee stay home when they are well especially when they work at a food service establishment that interacts with customers as well as handles the product they will be consuming. However, am I supposed to be that responsible employee and stay home when I am sick if I cannot afford it? My bills will not pay themselves. I am already in a tight spot financially since I do not earn much at Dunkin Donuts. If I was to stay home and get well I would be even worse off with regards to my bills. Being healthy, getting well, and not risking the infection of others is a luxury I unfortunately do not have.

This bill will put an end to many of these unnecessary problems. Speaking for myself, I know that the benefits would be at least two-fold. Not only would I be in better health with the opportunity to stay home and get well but I would also be in a better financial situation not having to miss pay when I have no choice but to stay home sick. We all get sick where going to work is not an option and have to stay home. Should we have to worry about our bills because of things we cannot predict nor prevent?

I urge you to consider the paid sick days bill for all of the reasons I have stated above and many more. Many hard working people throughout Connecticut need this. Thank you for the opportunity to make my voice heard.

Sincerely,
Mark Davis