



Stop&Shop®

February 28, 2011

To Members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee:

On behalf of The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC, I am writing concerning Senate Bill 913 "An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees". The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company is one of the largest employers in the state of Connecticut with more than 12,400 full and part-time associates, most of whom are unionized. We are proud to offer competitive benefit packages to all of our employees. Our benefit packages include paid sick leave after applicable waiting periods. We have 93 stores in Connecticut and look forward to continuing to be a vital part of each community in which we operate.

Stop & Shop opposes Senate Bill 913 because it places an unfair burden on employers that already have comprehensive benefit packages in place that include paid sick leave. The collective bargaining agreements we have with our unionized associates address a wide variety of employee benefit and compensation issues, and by mandating that all employees accrue paid sick leave according to a one-size-fits-all formula the proposed bill would disrupt comprehensive benefit packages that have been specifically negotiated with and agreed to by our union associates. For the same reason, the proposed bill would be very costly and difficult to administer.

We care about our associates and we want to continue to offer these benefits to our valuable workforce. We need the flexibility to deal with the needs of our individual associates. This proposal, a "one-size-fits-all" approach, will unfairly burden companies like Stop & Shop that already have in place comprehensive compensation and benefit packages for their employees. We strongly urge you not to support Senate Bill 913.

Sincerely,

Mark McGowan

President Stop & Shop New England Division