

**AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO
EMPLOYEES.**

To the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

March 1, 2011

My name is Nancy Diaz. Until recently, I worked as a School Bus Monitor in Hartford, but was fired in January after having to call in sick.

I am speaking in support of **SB 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.**

For the past three years, I worked as a bus monitor for Logisticare. In January, I had to go to the emergency room because I was suffering from a hernia which had to be removed in an emergency operation.

I didn't want to miss work. The way things are now, if you're out sick back-to-back for more than 5 days, they can suspend you without pay. So then you have to go to work, even if you're sick, or, they will cite you. And if I don't go in to work, I don't get paid. It's a part-time job, not a full-time job.

But, after my hernia surgery, my doctor told me that I needed rest to heal, and that I should not go back to work before my healing was finished.

So I gave his written instructions to Logisticare. And I was out for 3 weeks. I do my job well and worked for them for 3 years, but they still fired me, because I was out sick for 3 weeks.

With the Paid Sick Leave to Employees Act, this would not have happened. I would still have my job, which helps my family. It is very frustrating that I was

almost finished with healing when they fired me and despite the fact that I had a doctor's note.

Before this happened, I did go to my job when I was sick. I didn't want to go in sick – if you're sick, you're getting others sick too. But I felt pressure and did not want to get cited, and because if you don't work you don't get paid.

But with my hernia, I had no choice, I had to be out. Please support paid sick days, so that we can be healthier, and so that we don't lose our jobs just because we get sick.

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