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March 1, 2011

IN SUPPORT of SB 913 for Paid Sick Days

Testimony to the Labor Committee:

Please support the paid sick days legislation. Paid sick days are important to keeping our school's healthy.

As a teacher, I see the consequences when parents do not have paid sick days. I often see students sent to school with contagious illnesses, because their parent could not afford to stay home with them. No child should be forced to go to school when they are sick, but parents often aren't able to stay home from work and still be able to pay the bills.

Going to school sick can negatively affect a child's ability to learn. When a child is sick they are not able to concentrate in class. Staying home one day to recover and come back to school healthy, as opposed to an illness continuing on, provides the child with the ability to concentrate and learn.

This is not only unfair the child that is sick but also that child's classmates. When a sick child goes to school, the child's classmates are exposed to illness. During the flu season if a student comes sick, it can quickly spread to the entire class or school.

Please support the paid sick days bill so students can stay home when they are sick.

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