



Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

February 23, 2011

Re: SB 913 An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees

Dear Members of the Labor Committee:

I represent a membership of approximately 400 mostly small business people. We work hard to ensure that our members have the best possible business climate so that they can be successful, continue to stay in business, and employ Connecticut people.

While we are sympathetic to the intent of this proposal, we fear that SB 913 will substantially increase business costs to our members and thus force them to reevaluate the other benefits they provide to their employees. Additionally, we have a problem with the word "mandate" especially as it specifies how sick time is to be accumulated, used and accrued. Most of our members have already worked out a system that benefits their employees, including sick days for employee illnesses. However, we fear that the compliance issues attached to such a bill will be disconcerting at best, and make it even more difficult for Connecticut businesses to compete—especially with the additional unfunded mandate to include allowing paid sick time to care for spouses, parents and children.

We hope that you will reconsider adopting SB 913—especially in an already very difficult business climate. Let's not add to the already jaded view with regard to Connecticut as an unfriendly business state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Ritchie
President and CEO
Fairfield Chamber of Commerce