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State of Connecticut
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Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) in Support of ~~R.B. 913~~ **AN ACT
MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO
EMPLOYEES**

Before the Labor Committee

March 1, 2011

Paid sick leave is a progressive measure that is overdue. In today's society, both parents are typically employed and juggle their time between work and care for children, aging parents, or both. Many Connecticut families are headed by a single parent, a less-than-ideal situation that increases the stress. While many companies understand this dilemma and provide time off to care for a sick family member or the parent herself or himself, others are more rigid and will not allow time off. The parent must then choose to risk being fired or lose pay in order to care for the family member or recover from their own illness. Based on informal discussions with constituents, this difficult choice appears to be more common among workers with service jobs.

I notice that the bill exempts part time teachers of the state higher education system. As they face the same stresses of balancing work and the occasional need to nurse a sick child, spouse or aging parent, I hope the committee will remove the exemption and allow the occasional paid sick day without fear of retribution. Thank you for raising the bill.