



To: Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee

From: Robert P. Williams, President

Date: February 28, 2011

Re: Reject SB 913: Mandatory Paid Time Off

Message:

Attempting to pass the Mandatory Paid Time Off bill given the current economics in Connecticut indicates a lack of understanding as to the impact on companies trying to recover from a devastating recession. Any attempt to support this harmful bill suggests a desire to support a political agenda rather than do what makes sense for business. Clearly this is no time to impose such a costly mandate on employers in the state. Connecticut lost more than 100,000 jobs in the recession and the state's official unemployment rate still stands at about 9%.

If passed, this proposal will:

- Make Connecticut the first state in the nation to mandate paid time off
- Make Connecticut businesses less competitive with those in other states
- Increase labor costs significantly if an employer provides anything less than the state mandate for sick time
- Prevent employers from using attendance and other personnel policies that conflict with the state mandate

Becoming the first state in the nation to mandate paid time off for employees would be a regrettable step backward, given the state's high unemployment, struggling economy and weak job-growth prospects. Other states have avoided it just because it is a job-killer.

If mandatory paid time off passes, many employers have said they will be forced to cover the extra costs by reducing employees' benefits, cutting their hours or even eliminating positions. That's a steep price to pay.

My company ships products across the country and competes with companies spread throughout the USA. We already in the top 5 states for energy cost, our medical insurance costs start higher and have risen faster than 2/3 of the remainder of the country. How can you expect small manufacturers to compete in this environment? These types of bills are forcing us to look at other parts of the USA when our lease is up in 2012. Can you afford to lose more jobs?

Please work on legislation that will help us be more successful, and the Mandatory Paid Time Off clearly does not fall into that category!!