



913

Testimony
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Before the Labor Committee
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SB-913, AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *opposes SB-913*, which will require employers with 50 or more employees to provide up to 6 days of paid family and medical leave to employees.

Businesses, particularly seasonal industries, start-up businesses and small businesses with fewer than 100 employees, need the flexibility to design a wage and benefit package that allows them to grow and add jobs. Most of these businesses operate with razor thin profit margins and are tightly staffed. These companies simply can't absorb the cost of additional government mandates.

During these difficult economic times, many business owners are not drawing any salary for themselves so that they can continue to pay the bills needed to keep their doors open until times get better. Some have even taken funds from their own savings to keep operations afloat. When faced with increased personnel costs and inflexible government mandates, these companies may simply decide to stay small rather than expand and add jobs to our economy. Or, they may look to states with more supportive business climates in order to expand their businesses.

SB-913 undermines the ability of employers to develop common sense, fair policies that benefit their employees and allow the company to succeed, thereby ensuring continued employment. Sick leave policies vary from company to company because each company has different needs, different costs, and different obligations to its customers. For example, contractors that bid on construction projects would be hard pressed to cover mandated sick leave costs and complete projects on time and at the agreed upon price.

SB-913 will hinder profits, productivity and entrepreneurship – which are all critical to building and retaining a strong economy. While we encourage our member companies to treat employees fairly and offer them a mutually agreeable wage and benefits package, we oppose imposing a mandated paid sick leave policy on employers. In addition, the majority of companies already offer a generous package of paid sick days and it is dangerous to set a precedent of establishing a law that – once in place – could be increased as time goes on.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 800 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.