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Testimony IN SUPPORT of S.B. 913

March 1, 2011

My name is Ryan Ozimek, and I am the CEO and co-founder of PICnet, a web development consulting firm. I support S.B. 913, which would allow employees in Connecticut to accrue and use paid sick leave.

PICnet is located in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., the two localities in the country with paid sick days laws in effect. We have six employees in D.C. and one employee in San Francisco. Since we opened our doors in 2001, every employee has been able to earn up to six paid sick days each year. The paid sick days laws have not had a negative impact nor have they increased costs for us.

Providing paid sick days is less expensive than you may think, for a couple of reasons. First, my employees use paid sick days in a responsible way. For example, few use all of the days available because they only take the time off when they truly need it due to illness. Second, if they were to come to work sick, I would ultimately lose much more money because sick workers are both less productive and risk infecting my entire workforce. By showing respect for my employees and their health and that of their families, they are more dedicated to their work at PICnet.

Just as businesses in San Francisco and D.C. were worried about how a paid sick days law would affect them, I suspect the same concerns are present right now in Connecticut. From a business who has employees in both of these cities, I can tell you that paid sick days laws have not negatively impacted us. In fact, paid sick days make good business sense and it is wise government policy to promote healthy workplaces.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Ozimek
CEO and co-founder of PICnet