

Testimony for Sandra Fitzpatrick

9/13

Committee on Labor and Public Employees regarding SB913 paid sick days

Thank you for the opportunity to present my experiences on this issue.

I am in support of paid sick days. I support the issue after having seen the toll not having paid sick time has had on my family members. I have had jobs where I have had paid sick time and not had paid sick time. I know how important it is to be able to stay home and take care of yourself. Sometimes there are factors beyond your control and as an employee you need the ability to take a day off when family health issues come up. This is especially important as a parent. An employee should be able to care for their children and not have to worry about if he or she will still have a job when they get back to work.

My Granddaughter is one of those people in this scary position. I prefer not to use her name here. She has two children, one age 7 and one age 3. Her youngest child has had bronchial complications from birth. This means he needs extra medical attention. He has been in and out of the hospital for all of his life. When he needs to go into the hospital my Granddaughter has to take time off of work. This has caused unfair treatment of her by a supervisor, a loss of job security, and I think punitive actions against her work schedule. She works at a major corporation who can definitely afford to offer her paid sick time off without giving her trouble about her absolutely necessary absence. It is sad that we live in days when it is justified for big business to care so little about their employees and deny them adequate worker protections.

My Granddaughter has had to take a few days of a year to handle the occasions when her son would have a complication. She has received nothing but grief for this by one of her supervisors who has made her life very difficult. She now is scheduled on the night shift, we believe, as punishment for missed work due to her son's hospitalization. Her job is far from secure. It is simply unfair the way she is treated by her employer.

This legislation needs to be passed so that employees here in Connecticut can be protected when they get sick and also so they can be protected from vindictive management when they need to recover or care for their family in times of illness and hospitalization. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Fitzpatrick  
West Hartford