



TO: LABOR COMMITTEE
FROM: SUE O'CONNOR, PRESIDENT
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2011
RE: SB 913, AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS PROVIDE PAID SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, a business organization representing roughly 500 businesses from 31 different towns in the State opposes Senate Bill 913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.

This proposal will substantially increase the cost of doing business and could force many of our businesses to reevaluate and reduce any other benefits they provide for their employees. Businesses need to be able to hire and retain good employees. Most businesses have sick time policies in place, along with other benefits, and most provide for their employees to the best of their ability. Benefit packages based on market conditions, competition, and overall work flow, are often discussed and negotiated privately with employees prior to being hired.

Daily, the Chamber sees businesses struggling through this unpredictable, lengthy recession, and businesses need the flexibility to be allowed to set their own policies based on their individual situations, without the State mandating their workplace policies. We heard recently from Governor Malloy that "Connecticut is open for business." If that is true, and the goal of Connecticut is to see its businesses grow, prosper, and create jobs in our State, it is the opinion of the Greater Manchester Chamber that passing bills such as SB 913 does nothing to support this goal.

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce urges you to reject Senate Bill 913. Instead, the Chamber urges you to work with Connecticut's businesses to help reduce the cost of doing business in our State, to truly achieve its goal to see its businesses grow, prosper, and create jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue O'Connor, President