February 28, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

I am Bill Dragan, President of Centrix, Inc., a dental manufacturing company located at 770 River Road in Shelton, CT.

I am writing to you today to strongly encourage you to oppose SB 913, the Mandatory Paid Sick Leave Bill. Centrix already provides its employees with a generous paid leave policy, as do many--if not most--Connecticut employers. This proposal WILL substantially increase our business costs and will force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees. If this bill passes, Centrix along with many other Connecticut employers will have to make some tough choices.

We already juggle both state and federally mandated regulations regarding FMLA, WC, ADA, COBRA, etc. When will we learn that placing unnecessary burdens on the employer does not necessarily achieve the desired result for the employee? How many more businesses have to close or move out of CT before we realize that employers and employees are already working effectively together for their mutual benefit, and mandates like this one jeopardize that delicate balance.

We need the autonomy to determine what paid time off policies work for our companies and our industries--for financial, competitive and productivity reasons. The resources that would be required to implement and maintain this mandate would require Centrix to cut back on our employee recognition and rewards programs, tuition reimbursement and other training and development programs, all of which we believe are more valuable to both Centrix and our employees, as well as the State of Connecticut, than mandated sick leave. I think our employees would agree!

I cannot urge you enough to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William P. Dragan
President
Centrix, Inc.