

Testimony of Jeanette Bolduc, Paraprofessional

RE: HB 5465 An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain  
Municipal Employees

The Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 1, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Jeanette Bolduc and I'm here to speak in favor of HB 5465, An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees. I represent the 250 paraprofessionals employed by the New Britain Board of Education and am here to share how this bill would impact us.

Paraprofessionals work with a very diverse population of mentally and physically challenged children. We strive to keep ourselves focused in order to create a balance between work and family. During the course of the regular school year we work less the current minimum 1,250 hours required to be eligible for FMLA.

In my position, I work with autistic preschool children. It is a very rewarding, yet challenging job. I also have relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. This can cause me to intermittently be absent from my job. This, like any disease or family issue in one's personal life, can be very stressful. Having the peace of mind this bill can bring with protected leave and job security will help me, as well as any one else affected by personal medical situations that may warrant time away from their jobs.

I ask you to please support this bill and all the dedicated individuals who work hard every day to maintain the balance between family and work.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.