

9/13

Testimony for Crystal Williams

Committee on Labor and Public Employees regarding SB913 paid sick days

I implore you to support the paid sick days legislation. This is a necessary protection for our workers here in Connecticut. I am an Assistant Teacher and student. I think no one should have to work when they are sick. The repercussions of this lack of protection are felt even in the school system.

Teachers in Connecticut are given paid sick time off. The reason for this is obvious, sick teachers should not be in the classroom. If teachers were not protected by this provision the costs for schools would increase due to the increased need for substitutes because when workers are forced to come to work sick they spread illness to their coworkers as well. The same must be true for other industries. Sick workers lower the productivity of any industry and not providing this provision would only cost the companies more in the long run.

When the parents of children at my school do not have the ability to take time off due to illness it is the children who suffer the consequences. Every year there are many children sent to school sick because their parents could not take the time out of work to stay home and care for them. This is unacceptable. When these children come to school they spread their illness to other children, as school age children tend to be very tactile. They are also getting the teachers sick as well. This causes teachers to stay home, increasing the costs to the school system because of the increased demand for substitutes. Some of this illness is unavoidable but allowing parents to care for their sick children would surely help to prevent the spread of illness.

The paid sick days measure is a necessary protection for workers. We need to ensure that parents have the ability not only to care for themselves but for their children. Since businesses have not stepped up to the plate and provided this basic protection to their workers it is time for the state to defend employees when they become ill. Everyone should be allowed the capacity care for themselves and their families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Crystal Williams
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