

March 1, 2011

Testimony of Dalila Glendenning, Manchester, CT

IN SUPPORT of SB-913 for Paid Sick Days

9x3

I support the paid sick days legislation. Workers deserve to be protected, when they are faced with unexpected illnesses. Workers should not have to fear losing pay or worse their job, due to a simple illness.

I recently have seen the devastating impact of having a job without paid sick days. I was working at Marshalls. Although the job did not provide paid sick days, I enjoyed the work. I worked hard and was loyal to the company; however the company was not loyal to me. A company like this could afford to treat employees like me with respect.

Recently I became sick with bronchitis; I needed to stay home so I could get better. Without paid sick days missing work would make it hard to pay my bills. My illness was so bad that I simply could not work, so I decided to stay home.

When I told my manager that I was sick and unable to come into work, my job was threatened. I was told that I needed to return to work or I would be fired. Unable to return to work, I ended up losing my job. As a result of losing my job I was forced to move. Now I am still recovering from the illness, and without a job.

I urge you to vote for the paid sick days legislation. No one should be fired because they are sick, no one should have to face a loss of pay just to recover from an illness. Providing paid sick days will allow employees to stay home and care for themselves or their loved ones in the case of an illness. The workers of Connecticut deserve paid sick days.