

3/1/11

Senator Tony Guglielmo
Ranking Member, Senate Labor Committee
Senate Republican Office
LOB Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06109

9/13

Dear Tony,

I am writing today to urge yourself and fellow colleagues to oppose SB 913, a mandate on Connecticut businesses to provide paid sick leave to employees. While I'm sure this bill was proposed with good intentions, the realities of its potential effects on all businesses, large and small in this state could be devastating.

As a small business owner, I have always given the best wages / benefits to my employees that were possible. I am a firm believer in the free market system, and the freedom of both the employee and employer to negotiate wages and benefits fairly and equitably. Setting a mandate on paid sick time will undoubtedly raise payroll costs as it removes the employer's right to develop the right mix of salary and benefit packages that work best for their company and their employees. All businesses should have the flexibility to provide these benefits based on what they can afford, and what competitive market forces demand, which enables them to attract and retain qualified personnel.

To put it simply, SB 913 is a jobs killing bill. If this bill is signed into law, it will only add on another costly layer of regulation for doing business in the state of Connecticut. Paid sick time is an employee benefit, not a requirement. It is a benefit that employees have the right to bargain or negotiate for. It is also that benefit that all employers have and ought to have such right, to offer and negotiate benefits freely without being forced to do so, as this costly legislation would require.

Sincerely,

Geoff W. Prusak
Signs of All Kinds, LLC
Manchester, CT