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HOME MAKER
& COMPANION
SERVICES
FOR THE
ELDERLY

February 25, 2011

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Maria M. Garrido-Cauley, I am the Human Resources Manager at Rainbow Home Services, LLC. a Homemaker-Companion Agency for the Elderly in Newington, Connecticut. I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-913, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave.

These are very difficult times for all businesses. Insurance rates have increase as much as 19% in the last year; minimum wage was raised by 3.125% as of January 1, 2010 and requirements that participants of the Home Care Program for Elders pay 6% of the cost of their services, has resulted in a considerable amount of clients dropping out of the program with the subsequent reduction in income.

As a provider for the Home Care Program for Elders, we are being reimbursed at very low rates, currently 30 % below market value, of which last increase of 2.9% took place in 2007. Since the last rate increase over three years ago, we have incurred higher minimum wage mandates, higher worker compensation insurance rates, increased unemployment contributions, and numerous other cost increases.

The approval of SB-913 under the current economic circumstances would only further increase the cost of doing business in the State of Connecticut. As an employer we appreciate our employees, we understand that they are our biggest asset; however we cannot afford to absorb the cost of this mandate due to the inability to pass this cost on to our clients.

The passing of this bill will hurt the same employees it is trying to protect by resulting in the reduction or discontinuance of current benefits, raises and/ or bonuses and may even increase the unemployment rate as we will be forced to freeze hiring and may have to discontinue current positions.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Maria M. Garrido-Cauley
Rainbow Home Services, LLC