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February 28, 2011

To: Members of the Legislature's Labor and Public Employees Committee

Subject: Reject SB 913: Mandatory Paid Time Off

Doesn't it seem ridiculous in the state of this economy, that once again you, our legislatures, in the Labor Committee would raise the mandatory paid time off bill again! At what point in time will you recognize this continues to scare off potential businesses that might be willing to move into this region. We are a sick state as are many others throughout this nation. It doesn't make sense for Connecticut to be the first to implement such a bill. Will it increase our costs? How can it not!

We have vacation time and sick pay time and we have less than 50 employees but I don't wish that on every business and industry in this state. Some businesses are lucky enough to have profits that can support these benefits. But I must say, it becomes more difficult each and every year. What's more important? Healthcare benefits, reduced healthcare benefits or additional paid time off. I know what my answer would be, what about you?

Implementing this bill will have an effect on my business. With the continued decline in the manufacturing segment of our economy due to the regional high costs as well as foreign competition we have less and less companies to offer our product and services to. Do you believe implementing this bill will improve that?

Based on arguments that have been present to date, we should not have sick people visit the doctor's office as they may infect the office staff. Also our children with colds should not attend preschool or afterschool programs as they will also potentially infect their teachers and caretakers. We really don't have to worry about teachers in elementary and junior high school and high school systems as we already know that they have plenty of time off. So, now will it come to the point that another bill will be raised so that the parents of those children are allowed to also have a paid sick day?

So let's go back, when is sick, really sick, and who is going to define it? How will we know if they have been sick? Will we need doctor's notes? You see how well that works in Wisconsin. Would you need to

see receipts for the cold remedies that they may have purchased? Who is to say and what is the barometer as to what sick is?

We are a regional business that relies on local companies to provide us with products to service. We presently rely heavily on our neighboring states to provide us with enough work to maintain our employment level. Your committee continues to regulate businesses large and small out of this region, this is unacceptable. I can only hope that your leadership once again does not allow this bill the light of day. We like living in Connecticut, we would like to continue doing business in Connecticut, we would like to keep our children in Connecticut but if things continue to go in this direction the manufacturing exodus will continue, which will affect jobs and unemployment. Keep in mind every manufacturing job supports an additional 3 to 4 service sector jobs.

Again as it has in the past, this bill will come out of committee, you will feel good about yourselves, at the expense of the working class who will continue to go unemployed. If you think we all have extra people available to us at any moment to replace those who claim to be sick you are sorely mistaken.

Respectfully,



Patrick Hayden

President