

913

March 1, 2011

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 913

My name is Tanvir Chandry, and I am writing in support of paid sick days. Paid sick days allow employees to be able to take care of themselves, and stop the spread of illness.

At my current job, working for Northeast Utilities I am fortunate enough to have paid sick days. I just recently used one to stay home with a hurt back. I was such a relief that I could stay home and take care of myself without having to sacrifice part of my paycheck. By staying home that one day I was able to recover and get back to work.

In the past however I was not so fortunate. I have held many different jobs in food service and retail where I did not receive a single paid sick day. Working two and half years in food service I saw many times when workers went to work sick. No one wants someone that is handling their food going to work sick. It is very easy for illness to spread, when someone is coughing or sneezing on someone else's food. Paid sick days would allow food service workers to stay home and not spread illnesses.

After working three and half years, in retail at Macys, I also did not receive paid sick days. I often interacted closely with customers and co-workers. When I went to work sick, I risked spreading my illness. However without paid sick days I could not afford to stay home, to recover and avoid spreading my illness. Losing a day's worth of pay meant that I could not pay my bills. However a large company like Macys could afford to pay for a few sick days each year. Providing paid sick days would mean employees would not spread illnesses in the workplace and would be more productive.

Please support paid sick days and allow employees to stay home and stop the spread of illness. Sick workers spread illnesses. Paid sick days make for a healthy workplace.

Tanvir Chandry

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