

9/13

Testimony for Tina Cox

Committee on Labor and Public Employees regarding SB913 paid sick days

I am writing in support of the paid sick leave legislation. I have experienced the effects of not having the ability to take time off when you are sick. I have had jobs in the past where no sick time was available to employees. Those policies are bad for business, they are bad for the employees, and they are bad for society in general.

Nothing is gained by a business when they force employees in the tense, immoral, position of choosing between their job and their health. When employees come to work sick they are less productive and they get their coworkers sick. There is no way anyone could believe this is good for business. By denying employees paid sick time businesses are forcing those people who cannot afford to lose the income to come into work sick.

I have seen this firsthand as I have been a server in the past. My coworkers and I would show up to work sick because we could not lose the income. It was not just the wait staff but also the bussers, hosts, and cooks. A restaurant that does not offer paid sick time during flu season has a host of staff passing their bugs to each other. This means that, after the patron is seated by potentially by a sick host, the guest's food is being cooked, brought to them, and cleared away by staff that is ill. Obviously this is the perfect environment for the virus to spread to the public. Not only are the employees in restaurants not allow to care for their own health but they are exposing restaurant patrons to viruses.

It simply makes no sense to deny this safeguard to employees. It will benefit everyone to allow sick people to stay home and recover from their illness. The last place they need to be is work.

Sincerely,
Tina Cox
80 Meetinghouse Ridge
Meriden