2-10-11

#5465

TO whom it may concern:

My name is Katherine Marcantonio and I am a paraprofessional in the New Britain School System I work with a special needs child with Autism.

I was diagosed with C.L.L. (Chronic Lymphocytic Lukemia) in 2004 and have been on F.M.L.A. since then. This is the first year I was denied. The reason was the amount of hours we needed to work during the course of the year. Most of us did not meet those qualifications, if any. I have gone through chemo in Dec. 2008 through March 2009. It was a total of 20 days, which was one week of treatment and 3 weeks off, for 4 months. If it wasn't for F.M.L.A. this time off could of been held against me. The Lukemia can come back at any time and I might need treatment again. It is very stressful to know that if I do not have F.M.LA. that my job might be at risk because of the time I need to take off. I am a single mother with 3 children and this law is very important to me.

I also have fibromyalgia and arthritis in my neck. But the Lukemia is my biggest concern Please consider lowering the hours needed for F.M.L.A. for us. This would take a lot of stress off me to think my job would be secure despite my medical conditions.

Thank you &
Sincerely
Katherine Marcantonio