

Deb Coggshall, Rocky Hill Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 913

9/13

March 1, 2011

I support SB 913. Employees in Connecticut should be able to stay home when they are sick, rather than spreading illness in the workplace.

I have worked as a server, where like most other restaurant workers I did not receive paid sick days. Without paid sick days I often saw workers come in sick to work, and risk spreading their illness to co-workers or customers. I was often unable to afford missing a shift, I could not pay my bills without a full paycheck.

Furthermore I felt my job was at risk if I did call out. I felt like I was very replaceable and feared upsetting my boss by calling out sick. My co-workers often felt the same way. Calling out was not really an option. I could not afford to lose the pay or even worse my job, so I suffered through my illness and went to work sick.

When you think about it restaurant workers are the people that need paid sick days the most, no one wants someone sick preparing or serving food. It was not uncommon for me to see co-workers sick, coughing or sneezing at work. This is unhealthy for everyone, when food service workers are going to work sick.

Please support paid sick days. People that are handling food, should be allowed to stay home and get better. Make sure that workers are not punished for being ill, through loss of pay or worse loss of their job.