

9/13

Testimony from Mike Duffy Sr.

Committee on Labor and Public Employees regarding SB913 paid sick days

Thank you for allowing the public to add to the discourse on this issue.

I am in support of the paid sick leave measure. I think it will fix some of the problems that exist in the workplace today. I am a worker at one of the largest communications companies in the world and receive paid sick days; however, if I use them I get disciplined.

Many people I work with, including myself, believe the company uses these "mock" sick days to look like a more responsible corporate citizen and to gain a better bargaining position with our union. For many of us in the company, we might as well not have paid sick days because it is just as stressful for me to take the time off work as it would be if my company never offered sick time. In effect, they have found a way to look good to the public without actually having to include the integrity of providing paid sick time.

The result of this type of policy is the proliferation of disease to every citizen who is exposed to a sick employee. Employees at my company, myself included, come to work sick rather than suffer discipline, or the threat of discipline. This means we are spreading illness around the office or to the public. I have come to work with ear infections, the flu, bronchitis, etc. and because I work both inside and outside of peoples' homes I have exposed working families, children, and elderly people to these infections. I have to choose between my job, my health, and my family and the health of other people every time I get sick.

I think it is common sense that if you are sick you should have the protections that would allow you to stay home and take care of your health and protect the health of the public. You have the opportunity to improve public health and the workings conditions for many of us here in Connecticut, please seize upon this opportunity and do something great for many generations to come. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Duffy Sr.
Meriden