

March 1, 2012

General Assembly
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S.B. 150 – An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Anne Feeney, and I am a special education paraprofessional at Roaring Brook School in Avon Public Schools, where I have worked for the past 18 years.

I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 150, “An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees.”

I am fortunate to work in a district where the school board and administration follow the spirit of Connecticut’s Family and Medical Leave Act. “Paras” in Avon are allowed to take unpaid family and medical leave when necessary and return to our jobs.

Unfortunately, this is the exception and not the rule for paras working in most school districts across Connecticut.

The bottom line is that paras simply want to be treated the same as other school employees when it comes to family and medical leave. **All of us should all be allowed to take time off of work after the birth of a child or when they or a family member is seriously ill without the fear of losing our jobs.**

It’s a simple matter of fairness and equal treatment.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Anne Feeney
Special Education Paraprofessional, Avon Public Schools