

**Connecticut General Assembly  
Commerce Committee  
March 7, 2013  
TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING:  
Senate Bill 1007**

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, Ranking Members, and members of the Commerce Committee:

My name is Patricia Gaskin and I work as a school bus monitor in Hartford, Connecticut. I am also a member of CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001 where I serve as a union steward and President of the Connecticut School Bus Council. I am submitting this testimony in support of Connecticut's Paid Sick Leave legislation.

The fight for paid sick days and improved family leave is extremely important to bus workers. We are around children every day. They get sick, and we get sick. At my job our boss would tell us that we could only be sick a certain number of days before being disciplined. We had to fight the company constantly, simply because someone went to the doctor, someone's child was out of school for the day, or because someone had an important surgery.

Last year, we became the first state in the nation to require employers to provide paid sick days! After we won the law, our boss had to agree to more and better protections for sick workers in our new contract. Never again can they pressure us to come back to work before we're healthy. Everyone should have these basic rights.

The Connecticut Paid Sick Leave law is good legislation, but it could still be improved. The State could add more job classifications to the legislation, or eliminate the service employee requirement entirely so that employees in all industries are protected.

Patricia Gaskin  
Hartford, CT