

February 27, 2014

To the Commerce Committee

Testimony on HB 5269 changing the Paid Sick Leave law

My name is Devon Johnson and I used to work at Subway at 443 Hartford Rd. in Manchester for 2 years. I worked over 20 hours per week and never received paid sick days because my employer had fewer than 50 employees, and therefore was not covered by the law.

I sometimes had appointments for my health and missing work made my life more difficult. I have to pay rent, I have a car payment and I have other bills. When I missed work for an appointment or for when I was sick, I had to make tough choices and was sometimes I was late on my bills.

The good news is that I recently got a new job as a driver at a large company, and now I get paid sick days. It gives me real peace of mind to know that I won't be fired and I won't lose pay if I need to call out sick or go to the doctor at some point, and I am glad that this right is protected by Connecticut state law. And I'm sure that if I use my paid sick days later on, it will be important to my budget that I get paid for that time.

All workers should have the benefit of paid sick days, including employers with fewer than 50 employees. I saw how profitable Subway was when I worked there: let me tell you they may be a smaller employer but they are not struggling. They can afford to let their sick employees get 5 days a year.

Please keep the paid sick days law intact, and please expand it to cover more workers. Employees like me are grateful for the protection this law gives us, but we need to build upon that to protect more workers and their families.

Thank you.