

February 27, 2014

Members of the Commerce Committee,

I would like to testify on HB5269, the bill to weaken the paid sick days law.

I have worked at Dunkin Donuts for 8 years, and I make a little over \$10 per hour. At my job, I now earn paid sick days because of the law passed in 2011.

I have three children, and I work hard so that I can support them as best I can. But I make a low wage, and it gets gobbled up quickly by housing costs, food, clothing for growing children, the electric bill, gas for my car, and all the other expenses I have. To give you a sense of the difficult decisions low wage workers must make every day, when my car was totaled not too long ago, I had to pay my rent late in order to fix the car. My family, including my sister, relies on that car to get to work and to appointments.

Of course, sometimes I get sick, and sometimes my children do. It provides some security for my family that I won't lose pay or get fired if I have to call out for a day or two to take care of them, or rest to get myself better, or take them to the doctor. And families like mine need financial security wherever we can get it.

Please don't do anything to water down the paid sick days law – if anything, the law needs to be expanded so that it covers more workers.

Kevin Burgos
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