

February 27, 2014

General Assembly  
Commerce Committee  
Room 110, Capitol Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: H.B. 5269 – AN ACT CREATING PARITY BETWEEN PAID SICK LEAVE BENEFITS  
AND OTHER EMPLOYER-PROVIDED BENEFITS.**

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

My name is Patricia Gaskin. I am a Hartford school bus monitor, resident of Hartford, and president of CSEA SEIU Local 2001's School Bus Council. I submit this testimony in opposition to H.B. 5269.

As a bus monitor, I ensure special-needs children get to school safely on the school bus. From 6 AM to 9 AM, we do pick up runs to deliver kids to school, mid-day runs from 10 AM to 12 PM, and from 2 PM to 5 PM we take them home again. On any given day I come into contact with more than 20 different special-needs children, and all the while we are in close quarters on the school bus.

Before the paid sick days law passed, a lot of bus drivers and monitors had to go to work when they were ill. Now that we have paid sick days, we can take a day off to recuperate when needed. That isn't just good for the bus drivers and monitors; it is good for the kids too. You spread germs when you go to work sick.

We fought to get paid sick days for a very good reason. It isn't right to force people to go to work sick. H.B. 5269 weakens Connecticut's paid sick days law, and that is wrong. I urge you to vote No on H.B. 5269.

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