



March 10, 2014

Subject: Please reject HB 5283: Expanding Eligibility for State FMLA

Dear Senator Kane and Representative Williams,

My name is Dianne Veley. I am the Human Resources Manager of The Siemon Company. We are a family owned business which began in 1903 in Bridgeport and moved to Watertown in the 1950's. We employ over 290 people in Connecticut and an additional 550 people globally. We have deep roots in the community and have no plans to leave Connecticut for another domestic location. However, we find ourselves in a frustrating position of frequently having to write to our state legislators about our ability to competitively compete in a global environment and to continue to employ Connecticut residents.

I am writing in response to the Expansion of Eligibility for State FMLA which will expand the state's family and medical leave law to allow employees to use it to care for extended family members—including siblings, grandparents and grandchildren who do not share an "in loco parentis" relationship (that is, the employee has not assumed parental obligations and responsibilities).

On behalf of Siemon, I strongly urge you to reject HB 5283. We need to take steps right now to turn the tides and become a favorable state in which companies like ours can prosper and grow. We need to show companies that we want them to stay in Connecticut and even relocate here. Defeat of this bill will be a step in the right direction.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Veley
Global Human Resources Manager

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