



Testimony of

**Greg Kotecki, Field Representative**

**AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO**

Labor & Public Employees Committee

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***SB 242 AN ACT CONCERNING SICK LEAVE FOR TEACHER ASSISTANTS AND RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS***

Good afternoon Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Greg Kotecki and I am a field representative at AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of unions representing nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel. I am here today to testify in favor of SB 242 AN ACT CONCERNING SICK LEAVE FOR TEACHER ASSISTANTS AND RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

As an individual who represents both Radiologic Techs and Teacher Assistants I can speak first hand, on the importance to include these positions under the current sick leave law. With the teacher assistant's inadvertent omission some years ago concerning coverage under the State's Family and Medical Leave Act, It appears that a similar inadvertent omission has again occurred regarding coverage concerning sick leave for these groups of employees. Sick Leave coverage/usage is essential to teacher assistants due to daily exposure to sick students. This is also a group that generally receives low wages and cannot afford to take a day off when sick. The sick leave that some teacher assistants have, may only be used if they are sick, meaning if their child or spouse becomes ill, then their ability to use their sick time is usually restricted.

As a representative of Healthcare employees, including Radiologic Technologists throughout the state, I can also testify to the inequity that currently exists regarding the fact that most of the Technologists' colleagues including such positions as RN's, Physician Assistants, Therapists, Pharmacists, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, Nurse and Health Practitioners, EMT's, Paramedics, Support Technologists and Technicians in general, already enjoy coverage under the current sick leave law. Much like the Teacher Assistant oversight, I believe that the framers of the current law did not specifically seek to exempt this type of Technologists and that it was just an inadvertent oversight.

Regarding any of the concerns first raised when the existing law went in effect, clearly the law has worked for the betterment of all of the covered workers throughout the State of Connecticut and we, as a State should be proud of the fact that, we are and remain the first and only State in

this Country to have paid sick leave. Any concerns that the law was perceived to be bad for business or that the State's economy has somehow suffered have not been demonstrated.

Again I ask for your support for Senate Bill No.242 titled An Act concerning sick leave for Teacher Assistants and Radiologic Technologists.