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**Written Testimony of  
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 17, 2015**

Good Day Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **HB 6566 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS WHO PROVIDE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE IN EXCESS OF THE LEAVE REQUIRED BY LAW**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

The proposed bill provides for a tax credit for any employer who provides longer paid family and medical leave to its employees than is required under state or federal law. However, neither the state nor federal FMLA laws require that an FMLA leave be paid. Further, I believe that there should be comprehensive legislation that addresses paid FMLA and not merely a proposal concerning a tax credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input concerning this proposed bill.