

March 5, 2015

To the members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Julienne Camhi, and I'm a personal trainer and group fitness instructor from Norwalk.

Women make a great percentage of today's workforce. With the high costs of living, most households are dependent on this income to help make ends meet. Unfortunately, disparities in pay between men and women still exist. Not only is pay often lower, but women often have to arrive home to do household chores, child rearing, and care for sick family members.

Not everybody is as lucky as me and my husband. I have some sick pay that accumulates as I work. It only shows up in my paycheck, but I wasn't allowed to use it until recently because I did not work enough hours per week - a current loophole in the law. This is quite unfair to see hours I have earned as sick time but not be allowed to use them! Just to note, I have increased my hours to meet the criteria but regardless, prior to that it was quite nerve-wracking to make that choice between going to work and taking unpaid sick time. At some places, it could even mean losing your job.

I urge you to pass policies such as guaranteed paid family and medical leave and paid sick days for all workers. These policies will create stronger families and a better economy. Please support HB 6784 to Expand Paid Sick Days to more workers.