

March 5, 2015

To the distinguished members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Joanne Grailich, and I am at present a part-time computer consultant, and full-time stay at home mother. I used to work outside the home but with a handicapped daughter and a 3 year old foster child (hopefully soon to be adopted) that became an impossibility.

It is my opinion that paid family leave and paid sick days is important to families and particularly in our case because our daughter has arthrogryposis and is confined to a wheelchair. My husband occasionally needs to take off time from work if we have a dentist's appointment, doctor's appointment or even a hair appointment since he needs to lift her from her chair into another chair which I am physically incapable of doing alone. Also, if the primary caretaker becomes ill, incapacitated in some way, or perhaps away on business, the other parent needs to be available to step in without losing pay. Sometimes, we just need my husband to be able to miss a day of work without pay, and he just needs a paid sick day. Other times, he needs a little more time and would benefit from the longer leave a paid family leave program would provide.

Fortunately, my husband found an employer who is flexible with his hours enabling him to help out when he is needed, as long as he gives them notice, but this was not always the case. When he was working at other companies it was a struggle. Given that he is also a computer consultant, he is often required to be on-call. As a result, I was often left alone to take care of my daughter because he had to work late or travel which created a very stressful situation. It is difficult for parents as it is to raise children, but without the other parent being able to support the main care taker for fear of losing pay is an unfair burden on families. I know people are afraid, due to the economy, to take off time from work for fear of losing their jobs as well as pay. This creates a difficult situation for both stay at home care-takers as well as parents working outside the home. I hope you will support this cause.

**I urge you to pass HB 6932, An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave and HB 6784 An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave.**

Thank you, and I hope you will support this cause.

Sincerely,

Joanne R. Grailich