

## Legislative Committee

March 8, 2016

Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3800  
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,175 members that employ over 50,000 people in and around our service area. Our chamber represents businesses from all industry sectors and of all sizes, from Fortune 500 companies, to micro businesses.

The purpose of this letter today is to offer the chamber's opposition to S.B. No. 221, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave. On our 2016 Public Policy Agenda, we encouraged the General Assembly to maintain a balanced and sustainable state budget that addresses long term pension/post retirement obligations, and that supports critical services without raising taxes and or imposing onerous paid leave or other employee benefit mandates on Connecticut businesses. The proposal before you runs counter to these stated goals.

While well intentioned, this bill would put additional strain on the business community in Connecticut at what remains a fragile time for the state's economy.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to reject S.B. No. 221, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important topic.