



**State of Connecticut**  
**House of Representatives**

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Good morning Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and ranking members and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I come to you today in strong support of HB221, An Act Concerning Paid Family Leave.

We think of this bill as a "women's bill" because many will be able to take advantage of it when they give birth. Although childbirth is a most natural occurrence for most people there are some that come with medical complications both during and after the birth of a child. As our population ages, both men and women will be faced with difficult choices. This in fact is a family leave option and will benefit thousands of people throughout our great state. How many times are we able to look at a bill that will help to improve the quality of life for so many people?

I'd like to share my personal story.

Many years ago my grandmother became frail and ill. At the time I had 2 small children, both in diapers. My grandmother begged me not to put her in a nursing home so the decision was made that we would move her into my home for care. I had a full time job at the time. We hired respite care to come in to help. It was spotty at best, some days the aides just didn't show up so I was forced to stay home to take care of her. This went on for months. I ended up not only not having any income but lost my job. I had to make the hard decision to place my grandmother into a nursing home so that I could seek employment. My grandmother died 6 days later. If I had had paid family medical leave, I believe that she would have lived longer.

Most recently I was diagnosed with cancer and was unable to work while I recovered from extensive surgery and debilitating chemotherapy treatments. Again, with no sick leave I was forced to work unpaid and my FMLA ran out.

This left our family financially strapped and unable to pay all of our bills. As a result I was left with no choice but to file bankruptcy.

With our aging population, our children will be facing similar choices as I had to years ago to take care of my elderly grandmother.

Paid family leave is not an option it is a necessity. We pay for insurance every week, there's even the option of Aflac to cover you in case of a cancer diagnosis. The time is now to allow people to pay a small portion towards family medical leave. We can't afford not to pass this bill

I urge you to move this bill forward.

Respectfully yours,



Kim Rose  
State Representative