Connecticut Franchisee Association
Supporting Small Business

Testimony
SB 221
From: Scott Fanning, President
The Connecticut Franchisee Association
March 8, 2016

Senator (Edwin) Gomes, Representative (Peter) Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I am Scott Fanning, the President of the Connecticut Franchisee Association. Our association represents the owners of 400 Dunkin' Donuts restaurants in Connecticut. Connecticut Dunkin' Donuts franchises are owned directly by your constituents – families who live and work in your neighborhoods. We represent small business owners; family businesses that have been handed from one generation to the next.

SB 221 would put an additional difficult financial burden on Dunkin' Donuts franchise owners in Connecticut. Our stores operate with small workforces using employees with flexible schedules. Requiring small business owners, like our members, to allow additional paid family and medical leave would put financial and operational restraints on our businesses.

Requiring employers to allow long term paid family leave for some employees will lead to overtime pay for others. This of course increases costs and becomes yet another cost of doing business in Connecticut, costs that continue to skyrocket.

This proposed law will also put an additional tax burden on our employees who often take jobs with us at entry level, or on a part time basis. We all know that taxes almost always go up in Connecticut and once this tax is put into place it will no doubt increase as the program matures.

Given the current state of the Connecticut economy we think the legislature would be making a mistake to add this new employee tax. Any additional mandates on both small businesses and Connecticut employees at this delicate time will make Connecticut a more difficult place to do business.

Thank you.