

My name is Yolanda and a resident of Windsor, CT.

My mother became ill in 2012. By 2013 we learned she had stomach cancer and would need round the clock care and chemotherapy as well as radiation. Doctor appointments were numerous and some days she could not be left alone.

My employer of 35 years informed me that I needed to fill out FMLA paperwork and explained that I was running out of family sick time. I had more than enough sick and vacation time to be out more than 3 months, however the time I was taking running back and forth to appointments to take care of my mother was an issue because I was not personally sick.

There need to be some changes. I would never want anyone to go through what I went through in regards to taking care of a loved one and watching them slowly slip away and worry that because I am taking the time to be with them during this crucial experience, I may somehow have to go without pay or take a leave of absence when in fact I had more than enough time off accrued. My mother passed away in 2014 and I wondered back then what could be done. I am glad this issue is on the table for it to be discussed, backed and placed into law.

We must do better for our elderly. We must make sure they are taken care of given the utmost care especially when they are ill. Their families need to be able to take whatever time is needed to ensure that care.

Please push this issue to the forefront of your mind and policy making decisions as it is important and necessary.

Thank you.