



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

February 14, 2019

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polleta and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 1**, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave, and **H.B. 5003**, An Act Implementing a Paid Family Medical Leave Program.

Both of these bills would create a system that provides paid family and medical leave for the people of Hartford and of Connecticut. The United States is the only developed country in the world with no national law to provide paid family leave, and other States, including our neighbors, have enacted forms of paid leave.

These bills create a system modeled after those successful systems, as well as paid leave legislation at the federal level sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro. A fair system of paid leave is good for employees and good for business. In California, which has had paid leave for more than a decade, one study found that 91% of employers said the policy either boosted profits or had no effect.¹

It's important to emphasize that this paid leave system is funded by employees. A very small percentage of employees' wages would go into a fund run by the State of Connecticut, and if an employee then needed to take a leave, that employee would be eligible for a salary replacement up to \$1,000 per week.

Right now, working families in Hartford, very few of whom have paid leave policies to take advantage of, sometimes have to choose between caring for a family member with a serious illness and earning a paycheck to put food on the table for their children. There are countless other scenarios that put working families in similar positions, and I believe in this legislation because it's an opportunity to give those families some relief without unduly burdening their employers or the State.

I urge you to support paid family leave because it's the right thing to do for the people we represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", is written over a horizontal line.

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

¹ The Center for Economic and Policy Research, "Leaves That Pay," 2011.

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