

**Testimony for Public Hearing
Labor and Public Employees Committee**

**Brenna Doyle
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**S.B. 1: AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE
H.B. 5003: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM**

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Brenna Doyle and I live in Vernon, Connecticut. I am writing today in support of S.B. 1: An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave and H.B. 5003: An Act Implementing a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

When I moved to Connecticut, nearly 3 years ago, I wanted to do everything I could to make this state my home. As my parents are getting older, part of what makes me consider staying somewhere in the long term is knowing that I will have the support I need to be able to provide care for my parents during whatever the coming years bring. The thought of remaining in a state that does not offer Paid Family and Medical Leave is very concerning. I know that I am not alone in this concern, especially as my generation enters the stage of life where caring for parents is becoming our lived reality.

Banking on the hope that when the time comes, I will be lucky enough to have an employer that offers paid leave is not sufficient or realistic. Just 17% of workers, including only 6% of low-wage workers, have access to paid leave through their employer. Relying on private industry to “do the right thing” is not working. The people of Connecticut need the government to step up.

With Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey already providing paid leave, and Massachusetts preparing to implement paid leave, Connecticut will have less and less to offer its workers, like myself, as we weigh whether to remain in the state. I know that Connecticut struggles to keep workers here, particularly the younger workforce. This is only going to get more difficult in the coming years if we only have to look to a neighboring state for more worker-friendly policies.

I strongly support these proposed bills. If we want to claim to be a state that cares about its workers, we must prove it with legislation like this.

Thank you for your time,
Brenna Doyle