

February 13, 2019

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly.

My name is Nancy Fabrizi-Miller and I live in Wallingford, Connecticut. I stand 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.

I was able to avail myself to FMLA during what turned out to be the last year of my late husband's life in 2006 and 2007 because I was working as a public school teacher and I had an inheritance from my father, who had passed in July, 2006. My husband Paul had been suffering for years from every effect Type 2 Diabetes can do to a human body: from heart attacks, stent implantation, bleeding on the retina and several surgeries, high blood pressure, and worsening heart failure which led to multiple weeks-long hospital stays, infusion therapies, implants of pacemaker and defibrillator, until finally stage 4 kidney failure. We decided to undertake peritoneal home dialysis, which required twice daily the setting and breaking down of dialysate bags and waste bags weighing anywhere from 12 pounds to 24 pounds each.

What changed things for the worse was when a toe infection in autumn of 2006 led to multiple amputations, life-threatening sepsis, a three month long rehab stay, prosthetic, therapy. I missed from October 2006 to June 2007. In September, 2007 the other foot got infected, led to amputation, and infection and death. Throughout that entire year I was his sole caregiver, administering meds, setting up and discarding heavy bags, driving to multiple doctors appointments, and so on. I could not function in my profession as this caregiving was full time. I put in a handicapped bedroom I had to pay in full for my health insurance which used up a great deal of my inheritance. But I could NOT have provided the quality care for him, or taken care of my teenage daughter and my home had I not been able to have that time. Very few people are in the position to do any of that today, keep their jobs, and their own health if faced with this situation, which really is not that rare.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation to keep people on their feet, able to pay their bills, keep their jobs, and have some peace of mind, even if it turns out to be the last times they can spend with a loved one. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy J Fabrizi-Miller