



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE JILLIAN GILCHREST**  
18TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 5007  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: Jillian.Gilchrest@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
EDUCATION

February 14, 2019

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1, AAC Paid Family and Medical Leave and HB 5003, AA Implementing a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

I have been working on the issue of Paid Family and Medical Leave, with many of you, since 2013. I, along with many advocates, worked with the legislature to pass a law to create a task force to study how Connecticut could implement paid family and medical leave.

Now, six years later, the Campaign for Paid Family Leave has grown significantly, a tremendous amount of research and information has been gathered, and you have a strong proposal before you that is ready for a vote. I'm also now a State Representative and hopeful that I will get to support this bill with my vote.

Over these last 6 years, our surrounding states have passed us by. Paid family and medical leave is needed in Connecticut and long overdue. It is my great pleasure to introduce Jessica Labrencis, a constituent, who is going to share her experience, one of many, that explains the need for paid leave in our state.