

Labor Committee
S.B. 1 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave
H.B 5003 An Act Implementing a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program
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Windsor, CT
2/14/19

My name is Sally Grossman and I'm from Windsor. I'm here to strongly support S.B. 1 and HB 5003, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave

I'm self-employed. I own a small interior painting business. Because I work for myself, I don't have access to any form of paid time off. Like many people in CT, if I don't work, I don't get paid.

Six years ago i became pregnant with my first child. I was sick throughout my entire pregnancy, throwing up every single day, but I had go to work because I couldn't afford to take time off. Then, at 28 weeks, I went into pre-term labor. I spent three days in the hospital while the doctors successfully stopped the contractions. I went home and was placed on bed rest for the remainder of my pregnancy, which lasted 9 more weeks. During this time, I couldn't work, or I risked going into labor again, which meant I went 9 weeks without any form of income.

At 37 weeks I went into labor. During labor, the doctors kept losing my son's heartbeat so they performed an emergency C-section because the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. After delivery, I was told by my doctor that, because I had a C-section, I would have to wait at least 6 weeks before returning to work. Despite these orders, I went back to work after just 3, even though I was still in pain from surgery and still bleeding from giving birth. I missed precious time with my son, time that I will never get back. I could barely afford to feed him and a month after he was born, I had to go on WIC, which would cover formula, so I then could afford diapers. It took years to recover from this financial hardship.

I wish I had had the opportunity to pay into a paid family leave fund so I could pay for my own time off. I doubt I will need maternity leave again, but this bill covers more than that, and has the potential to be used by everyone. If one of my family members or myself becomes sick, I won't have to make the same choice that I did with my son. I will be able to care for them without worrying about how I am going to support my family.

So many workers here in CT don't have access to paid family leave through their employer, including the vast majority of low wage workers and those who are self-employed such as myself. With surrounding states enacting their own Paid Family Leave laws, and the fact that the program is completely employee funded, CT really can't afford to not pass this legislation. Thank you.