



Testimony of  
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AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Labor and Public Employees Committee

*S.B. 1 AAC Paid Family and Medical Leave*  
*H.B. 5003 AA Implementing a Paid Family Medical Leave Program*

Good afternoon Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polleta and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Stephanie Johnson. I am President of my union, Lawrence & Memorial LPNS/Technologist, a sleep tech, a full-time employee, and a mother of two young men. I am here to ask you to support two bills dealing with Paid Family and Medical Leave - S.B. 1 and H.B. 5003

Currently, where I work, we are allowed 16 weeks of unpaid time. Residents of this great state should not have to choose between their livelihood and their family. You are not a bad employee if you need to take time off to care for your family. The pressure of having to show up to work while dealing with an ailing member of your family is intense and unfair. It is even worse if you have to be concerned about how your bills will be paid or how you will put food on your table.

Your job is what you do; your family is who you are.

My oldest son has autism and there were many days and nights I could not make it to work because I had to care for him. When the little bit of paid leave time that I had was used up, I had to go without a check.

No family should have to face economic hardship to take care of their loved one.

Some employers say it's too costly to provide Paid Family and Medical Leave. Companies don't elect our officials; we, the people do. Businesses are about their bottom line. They want the job done and all too often don't often care about the individual doing the job or what they may be dealing with at home.

Other states, including our neighbors Rhode Island and Massachusetts, have paid family and medical leave. It's time for Connecticut to join them and look out for our workforce, too. It's time for workers to come together and demand that our lawmakers pass a Paid Family and Medical Leave law that will ultimately keep workers and their families safe from economic harm while they are dealing with a serious medical illness.

I'm here to say that it is time for Connecticut to move forward and adopt Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Thank you and if you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.