

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

My name is Erika Mott and I am a resident of Manchester, 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 am a graduate student at the UConn School of Social Work and I firmly believe in striving for economic, social, and racial justice in every way possible.

I come from a working class family where paid time off is non-existent. My mother has worked two jobs for most of her life. For the past ten years, she has been working two jobs where taking time off would mean not getting paid so it's not an option for her. Because of this I watch as she has injuries or illnesses and she doesn't go to the doctor. The reality for people like my mother, most of my family, and other working families in Connecticut is that they have to choose between tending to their health concerns or paying their rent or mortgage. My mother is extremely hard working and does not show weakness but I worry about her, I worry about her as she gets older and the impacts of not seeking medical attention as she should. I worry about every child who has a parent in the same situation and they cannot help. People should not have to choose between financial stability and their health.

Not having paid leave puts workers in positions where they fall behind on paying their bills. Because of this they are more likely to file for bankruptcy. Many workers in this state, just like my mother, are in a place where one unfortunate incident could leave them with a large medical bill that they cannot afford. States surrounding us like Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island have all implemented paid leave programs and legislation is being discussed in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. California has had a paid leave program for more than ten years and employers report that there has been positive or neutral effects on their businesses.

I strongly support S.B. 1. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote favorably this year to make paid family and medical leave a reality for all Connecticut workers.

Thank you for your
time,

Erika Mott