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To Connecticut State Representatives and State Senators:

As a 13 year resident of the state of Connecticut as well as a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, I am writing today to urge the passage of a paid family and medical leave bill for our state in the form of SB1 And HB5300.

I have watched countless women pregnant at the end of their third trimester struggle to continue working up until the day of the onset of their labor because they have no financial choice. I have also witnessed these same women making the difficult choice to return to work far too early due to the financial pressure. Does our state value its women and the next generation so little that we can remain complacent? Is it any wonder the birth rate in our state is decreasing if this is how we treat our women taxpayers?

Women should have the ability to go out of work at approximately 36 or 37 weeks to complete their pregnancies and receive some financial support. In addition, a maternity leave of 8 weeks which promotes mother/infant bonding as well as breastfeeding should be encouraged in the form of some degree of financial compensation.

It is time for Connecticut to protect young families in the form of a paid family and medical leave bill. Please do what is right and pass this important legislation.

Thank you-

Karianne Silverman MD