

## Anderson, Bryan

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**From:** Stephen Wierbicki <swierbicki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:10 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Cc:** Jody Barr; Xavier Gordon; Brian Anderson; Brian Cutler; Marsha Tulloch  
**Subject:** Please pass Paid FMLA

Hello, my name is Stephen F. Wierbicki and I am a proud Connecticut resident of East Hartford, a state employee of the Department of Labor and Secretary of AFSCME Local 269. I urge the legislature to pass Paid FMLA because it is the right thing to do morally and is a win win for employees and employers. I am fortunate to work for the Department of Labor because when my mother was dying from the effects of Alzheimer's Disease in February and a March 2017 I was able to take five paid FMLA leave days before I had to use my accrued vacation time. The time I spent with my beautiful mother in her last days was invaluable for myself and my wife Dawn. The fact that I did not have to worry about going without a paycheck during my mother's last month of life made me focus totally on my mother and her needs in her last days. Paid FMLA keeps workers employed and prevents employers the cost of constant hiring and unnecessary turnover of employees.

As a future father, I am very fortunate that I can utilize paid FMLA once my wife gives birth to our first child in early May 2019. Again, I will be able to provide help to my wife in caring for our future newborn baby without worrying about not having a paycheck. All workers in the state of Connecticut should be able to have this right to care for a sick relative, spouse or a newborn without worrying about being able to pay the bills. Please pass paid FMLA it is the right thing to do practically, politically and most importantly morally!

Sincerely, Stephen F. Wierbicki  
Associate Appeals Referee Connecticut Department of Labor and Secretary AFSCME Local 269