



**Written Public Hearing Testimony of  
Sharon Palmer, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
March 12, 2013**

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **House Bill #6553, AA Establishing a Task Force to Study Family Medical Leave Insurance**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

I believe a task force to study this issue would be beneficial as many workers find themselves without financial support during leaves of absence pursuant to the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act, which can last up to 16 weeks. The Department of Labor receives numerous inquiries from employees as to whether there is a program to provide compensation while on an unpaid medical leave from work. A task force would have the opportunity to examine similar laws in other states, and research the effects on businesses and employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.