



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 5387:  
An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave  
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ  
March 7, 2018**

Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5387: An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave, to establish a paid family leave system in Connecticut.

I am writing on behalf of the 237 congregations and more than 67,500 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 1988, the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference met and voted on a Resolution on Workplace and Family Life. That Resolution encourages public policy such as medical and leave benefits.

While the passage of the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was positive in the early 90's, it's not working for most employees. Seventy-eight percent of those eligible for FMLA don't take it because they can't afford to lose pay and many employees are not even eligible for this unpaid leave because their employer does not meet the size requirements. When employees have access to paid family & medical leave, they are happier and more productive in the workplace. The system that is being suggested would be fully funded by employees with no employer contribution.

California, Rhode Island, Washington, New York, and New Jersey offer paid family leave and several other states are considering legislation. As a state and country that supports family values, we should be doing more for our workers.<sup>1</sup>

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ therefore urges the Labor and Public Employees Committee to support House Bill 5387: An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave which would expand the current family and medical leave system and provide paid time off for such leave. People deserve access to paid time off if they are seriously ill, having a baby or taking care of a family member. We do not think workers should have to choose between their health or the health of a family member, and their jobs.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 5387.

Blessings,  
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<sup>1</sup> CT Campaign for Paid Family Leave



**God is still speaking,**

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