

From: Brenda Churchill [mailto:brendachurchill@lgbtqiaallianceofvermont.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:59 PM
To: Kayla Dewey; Keith E. Goslant
Subject: Testimony tonight

The following is my testimony this evening at a hearing before the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

H. 196 - An act relating to paid family leave

Public Hearing, Room 11, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

My name is Brenda Churchill from Bakersfield Vermont. I am here to testify as a private citizen and a member of the LGBTQ community.

Thank you for having this public hearing. I want to tell you about my experience with paid family leave over the past 35 years of my life.

I could sum it up by simply stating that I have been covered by several collective bargaining agreements the result of being a union member for the past 35 years.

These agreements included paid family medical leave insurance.

These benefits brought me and my family the ability to pay bills on time, buy food and most importantly, get healthy again.

I will admit that having a family medical leave benefit was a privilege that went with good wages and health insurance as a union member.

I am going to repeat that. My paid family leave was in combination with good wages and good health insurance.

With out all three of these things, I would not be alive to testify here this evening.

Paid family leave is a corner stone benefit that is clearly something every member of my LGBTQ community needs.

Consider this last influenza season. How many people came to work sick? How many of you were sick?

How many folks got sick because co workers came to work sick? How many kids got left home, when they were sick and couldn't go to school and parents could not afford care and could not lose their wage.

Lost time, extra child care, wages that don't come in, it is a vicious cycle of poverty that is perpetuated with out paid family leave.insurance.

I never experienced any of that but my LGBTQ community does and I see the effects on families and on the kids. I know you do too.

The cost of this needed insurance is very small but the benefit to everyone, family,, individuals, even employers, is huge.

Please support H 196 for Paid Family Leave. thank you for listening.

Senator Sirotkin: May I ask what unions you belonged to?

Brenda: UAW, United Auto Workers and the Communication Workers of America

Brenda Churchill, Liaison
LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont

"Activism is the rent I pay for living on this planet"
~Alice Walker