

NASCO

National Association of Security Companies



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September 1, 2011

AN OPEN LETTER TO:

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Office of the Governor of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

I write on behalf of the National Association of Security Companies (NASCO), the nation's largest association representing contract private security officer companies. As employers whose primary business is providing specific service workers – security officers – to our customers, labor costs are a major concern to us and to our customers. NASCO member companies provide services to many hundreds of customers, both large and small, located throughout the State of Connecticut. Our employees are directly charged with protecting the lives and assets of our customer; therefore, any public policy that negatively impacts our ability to provide these most vital services is a concern for our industry.

The lingering high unemployment rate in our nation is a top concern. We know you are working hard on this issue and were encouraged by a statement made during your recent summer jobs tour, wherein you stated to businesses, "We need to get out of your way, understand what regulations are impeding your decision making, slowing down the process, preventing you from creating jobs here, preventing you from maintaining jobs here." Equally encouraging is your effort to draw new business to the state and to keep businesses in Connecticut from moving existing jobs elsewhere. For example, your recent overture to Swiss bank UBS was very encouraging to business.

These comments and actions, however, are in contrast to your recent decision to sign into law SB 913, which requires that employers of 50 or more employees provide mandatory paid sick leave to their service workers.

NASCO believes that employers should offer paid sick days at their own discretion. Employers best understand the benefit preferences of their employees and must maintain flexibility to meet the unique needs of their workforce and to provide the overall benefit packages that their employees desire. While well intended, this type of mandate has the practical effect of actually hurting workers. In these tough times, mandatory sick leave benefits will likely come at the expense of wages or other important benefits. Now is not the time to mandate costly regulations.

NASCO member companies employ an estimated 10,000 security officers in Connecticut. Businesses affected by this bill collectively employ hundreds of thousands of Connecticut's citizens. The impact of SB 913 on our and other service industries could be devastating, as recently discussed in testimony by virtually every

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employer group in Connecticut during legislative hearings. We simply do not believe that it was the right time for the State of Connecticut to lead this effort by being the first state to enact such legislation and are convinced it will discourage employers from retaining or increasing jobs in Connecticut.

On behalf of the members of NASCO and our many Connecticut customers, I ask that you to commit your focus to protecting service jobs in your state by supporting the repeal of SB 913 in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

Jeff Flint
Executive Director
NASCO

Cc: Honorable Donald E. Williams, Senate Pro Tempore
Honorable Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House