

Dear Chair Barker,

This bill - if passed - would be such a costly and drastic hit to small businesses.

I have an accounting business; I pay payroll for myself and 2.5 employees. If one of those employees took 32 weeks off - $\$20.50 \times \40 per week = $\$820 \times 32 = \$26,240.00$ of expense - with no offsetting income - that would devastate my ability to remain in business.

My employees and I work on billable hours. I would have to hire a second person for the same amount - $\$26,240.00 =$ My cost is now $\$52,480.00$ (not to mention employer taxes and overhead). My income after expenses and employer taxes is less than that expense required to essentially pay for two sets of wages. I would have to close my doors - what would be the point.

I'm not sure where people think we (small business owners) get our money - there are no bottomless coffers available to cover that kind of an expense.

Please reconsider this bill - I know I wouldn't be able to survive if this was a requirement.

Sincerely,

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