



**Bartlett Brainard**

**Products Company**

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To the Connecticut Retirement Security Board:

Today I am writing to you imploring you not to mandate another thing on the small businesses of Connecticut. We are struggling! I am the owner of this family run business in West Hartford. I have been here for over 32 years and haven't experienced anything like this terrible economy before! Over 77 years Bartlett Brainard Products has been here in the Greater Hartford area. We are hoping to survive through these terrible times, but often feel discouraged by all these mandates, and by the fact it is taking too long for Connecticut to rebound.

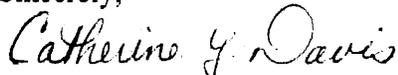
We employ five people full time and offer them excellent wages and benefits. When the state imposes a new mandate on businesses, oftentimes we are forced to shift money away from employees' wages and benefits and spend it on complying with the new mandate. More often than not, these mandates end up hurting the very people they were attempting to help.

We are also very concerned about this proposal as we already have a SEP account for each employee. We take good care of our employees. We don't need government's "Help".

Connecticut is last in the nation for businesses and this would be a nail in our coffin. Proposals like this one, on top of other recent enacted and proposed state workplace mandates, makes it harder for us to do business here.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Catherine Y. Davis, President

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