



October 24, 2014

To the Connecticut Retirement Security Board:

I am writing concerning the proposed state mandate requiring employers to run retirement programs for their full and part time employees. I am half owner of The Mechanical Advantage, LLC in Barkhamsted, CT. We currently employ 7 people with competitive wages and benefits.

We are extremely frustrated with the state of Connecticut. Our take-home pay, as business owners, has significantly decreased over the past few years, while maintaining our employees' wages and benefits. Health insurance costs have risen, as well as utilities, cost of goods, etcetera, and etcetera. These employer mandates are absolutely job-killing legislation. Not only will we not hire any new workers, but we are seriously considering scaling back our operations. We simply CANNOT AFFORD another expensive mandate. Our choice then becomes to scale back or close. This type of legislation hurts the very people it was meant to help. Business owners have to plan for their own retirement, why should we be on the hook for our employees' retirement??? They already get paid sick time, vacations and holidays – we, as the owners, do not.

Connecticut has got to change its attitude toward small business, and realize that helping small business IS helping every employee.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration and careful thought about the long-term ramifications on businesses in Connecticut, as well as the overall economic climate.

Regards,

Susan E Newman

Owner/Office Manager

The Mechanical Advantage, LLC

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