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TO: Senate Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform
FROM: Senator Rob Stafsholt
DATE: February 17, 2022
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 949

Thank you, Chairman Nass and fellow members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Regulatory Reform for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 949.

This legislation is in response to several constituents that have been sent home by their employer to isolate due to close contact with a colleague in the workplace that tested positive for COVID-19. The constituent was informed that they must isolate for the full 10 days or test negative after 7 days in order to come back to work. Once their COVID-19 test came back negative and reported back to work, they were informed that those mandatory days in isolation would not be paid if they tested negative. If they had been positive, then those days would have been funded from government funding relating to short term disability. If you provided proof of vaccination or had a positive COVID-19 test within three months prior to this exposé, the employee could go to work and self-monitor.

Current policy is five days unpaid for direct contact, isolate if unvaccinated or if you show proof of Pfizer's or Moderna's vaccine more than six months prior, or Johnson & Johnson's vaccine more than two months prior. If positive test, quarantine for five days and now it is all unpaid, no short term disability (government money). The only way to get paid is to use your Personal Time Off days or you go unpaid.

Under this legislation, if an employer requires an employee to quarantine at home due to a concern that the employee may have been exposed to or infected with COVID-19 while working and the employee receives a negative test for COVID-19, the employer must pay that individual at their regular rate of pay for the time missed and may not require the employee to use paid leave for those seven days.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be happy to have further discussions on the bill.