My name / organisation is [XXXXX] and I am writing a submission in support of the Holidays (Increasing Sick Leave) Amendment Bill, in particular clause 4 which extends the annual entitlement of sick leave from 5 to 10 days’ paid sick leave.

Increasing paid sick leave entitlement is important to me because it means that:

[Examples: you may want to adapt / include your own as well:

* I have more financial support when I am unwell and do not need to use my annual leave or unpaid leave - this year I may actually be able to use my annual leave to spend quality time with my family;
* It gives me more job security, and means that I am more likely to stay in paid employment, which is particularly important given the costs of medication;
* It reduces stress and means that I do not always have to choose between using available sick leave for myself or the person I care for. Rare Disorders New Zealand (RDNZ) have advised that approximately 50% of rare disorder patients are children, 30% of whom will not live to celebrate their 5th birthday [[1]](https://raredisorders.org.nz/about-us/submissions/submission-template-and-guidance-holidays-increasing-sick-leave-amendment-bill/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)

Increasing sick leave entitlements is just one small step that the Government can take to support people living with a rare disorder, but there is so much more to be done to support the 1 in 17 New Zealanders living with a rare disorder and their carers.

I call on the Government to adopt:

* The seven strategic priorities that make up a National Rare Disorder Framework for rare disorders being embedded and implemented in New Zealand: raredisorders.org.nz/fair-for-rare-nz/fair-for-rare
* Rare Disorders New Zealand (RDNZ) having their government funding reinstated. RDNZ is the connector hub and collective voice of rare disorders, with more than 140 rare disorder support groups under its umbrella. With 6,000 different types of disorders, RDNZ represents an important and sizable population that needs recognition.

I wish to make an oral submission in support of my written submission.