

Workers Statement: Elibel Garfias
**HB 6877: AN ACT CONCERNING A MINIMUM WORK WEEK FOR PERSONS PERFORMING
JANITORIAL WORK**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Elibel Garfias and I have been working as a cleaner in Greenwich Office Park for 13 years. For over 10 years, I worked there part-time. That's why I am speaking here today in support of the Better Jobs Act. To make sure Connecticut moves forward by passing a bill that guarantees a minimum number of hours to hardworking janitors who clean large buildings in Connecticut.

Part-time worker cannot support a family. That's a fact. For someone like me, a mother with a school-aged son, it was hard to make ends meet and almost impossible to send money to my daughter who lives in Mexico.

Thank God 3 years ago I was able to pick up more hours and work full-time. My life changed overnight. The worry about what bills to pay was gone. All the sudden, I had health insurance and being able to send money to help support my daughter and my two granddaughters wasn't just a dream.

Now my son just turned 18 and we are looking at how we get him to college. Three years ago this would have been unthinkable.

We live modestly but we are able to pay bills, rent and even to dream with a better life for my family.

For this reason, I would like to encourage you to vote in favor of the Better Jobs Act. This legislation could literally get thousands of families out of poverty and into the middle class.

Thank You.