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February 16, 2015

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee members:

My name is Mazonina Siqueira. I from Brazil and am 55 years old. I have lived in this country for 10 years, working as a helper cleaning houses. I have always been exploited, earning very low wages, sometimes as low at \$4.60 per hour. The worst example of exploitation I have suffered was: after 10 months of hard physical labor working for the same person, without any meal breaks, my health was seriously affected. I had to have an emergency surgery. After this surgery my boss assured me that I would continue to work, but on the day I was to return, I was fired. Until today, I have not been paid for the last days that I worked. The state of CT needs laws that protect workers like me, laws that clarify our basic rights, like the right to pause for meals and to be paid for the work we do. Please support bill 446.

Sincerely,

Mazonina Siqueira

My name is Lorry Champagne and I support proposed bill 444. I work for the Deputy Warden of Operations at Carl Robinson CI, a male correctional facility with over 1300 inmates. My office is in the middle of the compound, which is an open compound, that means that all inmate movement is done outdoors i.e. to medial, chow hall, school, work, groups etc

I work in the operations building which exposes me to hazards all day long. Inmates are called over to my building when they have done something wrong, when they are suspected of doing drugs and must be urine tested or after a fight. Needless to say they are not happy to be there. There has been many occasions when the inmate acts up; one slammed his head face first into the glass part of the door 2 x resulting in a code orange.

I walked into the Disciplinary Hearing Officers office one day to make copies, just as I walked an inmate got up from his chair and proceeded to assault the officer, had I walked in 1 second earlier I could have been the one assaulted.

The Inmates do not consider who is in a hazardous duty position and who is not, when they decide to assault, or even take them hostage.

Working inside a correctional facility is a very dangerous and stressfull atmosphere. I would like to invite each one of you to come to Carl Robinson and spend the day with me.