

**Testimony in favor of HB No. 5371:
“An Act Concerning a Minimum Workweek for Persons Performing
Building Maintenance Services”**

**Hearing of the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Thursday, March 3, 2016
Hill Regional Career High School
New Haven, CT**

Freddie Vargas

My name is Freddie Vargas and I’m here today to speak in support of the Better Jobs Bill because I believe the cleaning industry can do better to provide sufficient hours to all workers who wish they could work full time.

There’s no reason why workers who want to do work that needs to be done are forced to juggle multiple jobs just to get by.

I’ve been cleaning at Sikorsky Aircrafts in Stratford for over 10 years. I started part-time, but quickly I became a full-time employee and I can appreciate the stability that a full-time job gives to families-- but also to businesses.

We all do better work when we know that we are not a sickness away from being bankrupt.

So many of my part-time co-workers struggle because they don’t have employer paid insurance. I know this woman, Maria Moncada, who has three kids who prays for her family to stay healthy because every time they get sick she has to pay out of pocket. And if you don’t have full time hours you don’t get employer paid healthcare. This is not fair. But it just doesn’t make sense. So much time is wasted replacing workers who quit because they need more hours and they go elsewhere. Part-time may be necessary sometimes, but we should aim at making sure that good quality full-time jobs are created first.

I hope you consider this legislation. I know it’ll benefit a lot good hardworking people.

Many thanks.