

Christian Marcado

Security Guard, State Capitol Building

Thank you to the Labor Committee hearing my testimony today. My name is Christian Marcado and I'd like to tell you about my job as a guard at the State Capitol building for six years. We fought to make the union happen about three years ago, marching in the street. Now I'm here in support of HB 5378, which would make sure security officers are always covered by the law that allowed us to get a better contract.

The work we do might be simple, but it's really important. For the past three years I've worked outside in rain and snow, or in hot and humid weather, providing security at open parking lots that are a few blocks from the capitol. My job is to make sure none of the cars are broken into, and that people coming and going are safe. We've got a pretty strong team, and since I've been here we've never had a problem. But sometimes a single guard like me has to work alone for a 12-hour shift, and it's tough to do that job effectively and safely when we're out there alone.

As you've heard, we haven't had a pay increase in three years. I'm lucky because my rent hasn't gone up much. But it still is difficult. The health insurance we won a few years ago allowed me to go to the dentist for the first time in a couple years. At the end of the day, that was a help. Now, a little help from the committee would send a great signal about the important job we do. Please support HB 5378, so we can know we're covered by the Standard Wage Law, just like other property service workers. Thank you.