

**James Gatison,
Part-time Custodian, New Haven School System**

Good evening. My name is James Gatison and I've been working at Clarence Rogers School in New Haven as a part-time custodian going on four years now. Thank you to the Labor Committee for hearing my testimony in support of the Better Jobs Act, HB 5371. I'm 25 and single, and I have no choice but to live with my parents, because I don't make enough to live on my own. Benefits would also make a huge difference health-wise and everything. There are a lot of things that the State Health system doesn't provide, and that system is pretty pricey for my salary and for what they offer.

I've been looking for a second job to make enough to be considered full-time. I'm also a college student, studying exercise science and nutrition at Southern Connecticut State University, and it's hard on me to purchase books and supplies, because it's just not enough funds. I've gone to school full-time and worked full-time before in the past, and so have many of my friends. It's hard, but the way society is set up now, there's no choice but to do that. Not everybody has the funds to just study.

If this law passes, it would not only benefit workers like me, but also my job and the kids at the school where I work. I'd have more time to keep up with objectives on daily tasks. That was a problem just two weeks ago, just working four hours a day. There was vacuum cleaner that had broken, so I wasn't able to vacuum because I didn't have the time to fix it or get another. I think the Better Jobs Act makes sense for everyone, and I hope you can support it. Thank you.