

**Labor and Public Employees Committee  
March 11, 2021 Public Hearing**

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 1002 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS**

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 6595 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS**

Senator Julie Kushner, Representative Robyn Porter, and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is Kyle Brennan. I am a member of CEUI, I work at Western Conn. State University and I am a HVAC working Supervisor for 9 other QCW-HVAC state workers.

I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 1002 An Act Concerning Labor Issues Related to COVID-19, Personal Protective Equipment and Other Staffing Matters and H.B. 6595 An Act Concerning Labor Matters Related to COVID-19, Personal Protective Equipment and Other Staffing Matters. I would specifically like to focus on Sections 12 – 14 of both bills.

Since the pandemic started, we have remained at work due to our Essential (level 1) job description given to us by the State of Connecticut. At the beginning of the pandemic we worked on equipment to prepare for the National Guard to be housed in one of the dorm rooms as well as prep the HVAC equipment for two overflow hospitals. We constantly have been in close contact with students via service calls for heat and cooling for both students in quarantine and out of quarantine. Air filters have been upgraded to Merv 13 to capture the COVID-19 virus that we have to change out every three months in just under a thousand units. This involves crawling in air handlers that could house the COVID-19 virus, working around students' beds and personal belongings, as well as laying on the floor to work on the floor mounted HVAC equipment in bedrooms and living rooms. The HVAC dept cleans the equipment that filters the air to eliminate the virus putting us in high contact risk from particulates. We work in close quarters to one another due to the nature of our job per OSHA requirements and physical demands. We must work with outside contractors in which we do not know what they have for a company policy when dealing with COVID-19. I believe people that have worked through-out the pandemic should be compensated when fellow co-workers have been home collecting the same pay for working from the safety of their home and in some cases not able to work remotely. Additional unemployment benefits of \$300 a week simply creates the desire not to return to work, when hard working employees are receiving no additional support for a higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

I urge the committee to support both S.B. 1002 and H.B. 6595.

Thank you,

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