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United for Quality Care

March 11, 2021  
Kim Burns, RN  
District 1199NE  
Before the Labor Committee

***In Support of SB 1002: AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS and In Support of HB 6595: AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING ISSUES***

Good Morning Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Committee, my name is Kim Burns. I am one of the State of Connecticut's registered nurses who have been faithfully working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. I am speaking in support of Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 6595 because it would allocate hero pay to those of us who have been there for our patients on the frontlines.

I am proud of what I do and the individuals I care for. I only hope that the State of Connecticut recognizes me and my colleague's dedication. We have consistently put forth endless efforts in caring for our patients and we were not afforded any reprieve from the expected and unexpected circumstances each day. We put our health and our family's health at risk throughout this pandemic.

Yes, we signed up for this when we chose the nursing profession, but to recognize the risk that we took and to compensate us for it would speak volumes. It has always been an honor to work for the State of Connecticut and be a member of the SEIU 1199 of New England. Hero pay would show a vast appreciation for the frontline workers. As always, we stand united and I appreciate the opportunity to testify today. Thank you.