

**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 Joseph Cherry. I am a resident of **East Hartford** and a member of **CEUI, Local 511** or **MEUI, Local 506**. I work at the **Department of Veteran Affairs** and I am a **Cook**

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.

**I have been employed for 33 years at the DVA. I have never experienced or lived through something like this. I have reported to work every during this past year in fear that I was going to be next to catch the virus. As a cook we are required to be here to make sure our residents survive as they are completely dependent on us. We have worked side by side with covid positive residents and staff. As the rest of the world stayed home and sheltered in place we all went to work and faced the virus head on. No matter how much fear and anxiety we had.**

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

Thank you.

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