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Kyra Clark, Dental Assistant  
Uconn Health Center  
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 Kyra Clark and I am a Dental Assistant at Uconn Health Center and today I am testifying on behalf of 1199 members working for UConn Health Dental Center. Please pass Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 6595 so that workers like me are fairly compensated for the risks that we take every day as we continue to work in this pandemic.

According to the CDC working in Dental Care Settings is very high risk for contracting Covid 19. Spending every day putting yourself at risk, and not knowing on a daily basis if you have been infected for an entire year has been very stressful. It has also been very difficult to isolate yourself from your family and friends to protect them.

Many frontline workers like me don't just try to protect ourselves, we have family to protect at home as well. And that doesn't take into account having to prepare your family in case you end up on a ventilator. That was not something any of us wanted to do.

In addition, a lot of us members have underlying conditions like asthma but still go to work every day because we are essential. We literally go to work every day and put our lives at risk. It is not easy.

I hope when hero pay is considered for Essential workers, that Dental assistants working at UConn health are included. Please pass SB 1002 and HB 6595. Thank you.