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To: LABTestimony
Subject: Testimony S.B 1002, H.B 6595

March 10, 2021

Senator Julie Kushner, Representative Robyn Porter and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees committee:

My name is Danielle Eldredge and I am a resident of Mansfield CT, a member of CEUI, and I work at the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Custodian.

I am submitting 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.

As an essential employee during the COVID 19 pandemic, it has been a taxing and stressful time. Even though we have followed the proper procedures, cases broke out in the facility that put both my health and the health of my loved ones at risk. I have two teenage boys and have decided to keep them strictly online for school due to the fact that I am nervous about contacting the virus and, subsequently, passing it along to them and to other members of my community. I have worked overtime numerous times disinfecting the healthcare facility in order to keep the patients and the staff safe. My job duties were added to, especially when cleaning the rooms of positive patients. Approving hazard pay will resonate with the staff members as proof that all the hard work and sacrifice they have done has not gone unnoticed. We all have put ourselves at risk in order to care for the patients at the DVA.

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

Thank you,

Danielle Eldredge
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