



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW, CLC

KYLE BRAGG
President

MANNY PASTREICH
Secretary Treasurer

LENORE FRIEDLAENDER
Assistant to the President

VICE PRESIDENTS

- SHIRLEY ALDEBOL
- KEVIN BROWN
- JAIME CONTRERAS
- DEAN DEVITA
- ROB HILL
- DENIS JOHNSTON
- GABE MORGAN
- ROCHELLE PALACHE
- ROXANA RIVERA
- JOHN SANTOS
- CANDIS TOLLIVER

Capital Area District

- Washington 202.387.3211
- Baltimore 410.244.6299
- Virginia 202.387.3211

Connecticut District

- Hartford 860.560.8674
- Stamford 203.674.9965

District 1201

215.923.5488

Florida District

305.672.7071

Hudson Valley District

914.328.3492

Mid-Atlantic District

215.226.3600

National Conference of

Firemen and Oilers

606.324.3445

New England District 615

617.523.6150

New Jersey District

973.824.3225

Western Pennsylvania District

412.471.0690

www.seiu32bj.org

Manuel Estrada

Maintenance Worker, State Capitol Building

**An Act Concerning Labor Issues Related to Covid-19, Personal Protective
Equipment and Other Staffing Matters, HB 6595 and SB 1002**

Committee on Labor and Public Employees

March 11, 2021

Hello and thank you to the members of the Labor committee for hearing my testimony today. I'm a member of 32BJ SEIU and a maintenance worker at the State Capitol.

As you know, the buildings are empty of legislators and staff – that's why we're all on Zoom right now -- but there are about 40 maintenance workers and mechanics still coming in every day. We maintain lights and electricity, run the HVAC system, clean the bathrooms all day and the building itself at night, do all the work that kept the building safe, secure and functioning before Covid and that needs to be maintained even during the pandemic. We are of all nationalities and races. As essential workers, we have an especially high rate of coronavirus cases. I can think of four workers in our group who have had the virus and had to miss work.

Fortunately, our direct employer, SMG, is covering us for two weeks of special Covid pay if we have to quarantine. But sometimes, cases take longer than two weeks. One worker here needed an extra week until he felt well enough to return to the job, so he used his vacation time to cover it. Another fell ill along with his entire family. He and his children recovered quickly, but his wife has been in a medically induced coma for two or three months now. The disease has destroyed her body. If she improves enough to be taken off her ventilator, her husband told me, she would go to Philadelphia for a lung transplant.

I would like to ask the committee to consider the harm we face as essential workers, and please to support the Labor Covid bills, HB 6595 and SB 1002. They would allow us to receive support if we have to quarantine or become ill, and provide us with the hazard pay that we need to protect our families if the worst were to happen. Thank you.