

**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 James Evans. I am a resident of Bethlehem and a member of CEUI, Local 511. I work at Southbury Training School and I am a Material Storage Supervisor 1/ Warehouse.

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.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Our Physical Plant Employees of Southbury Training School were deemed as essential employees, to prepare and take on the additional roles that the COVID-19 pandemic would bring upon STS. Most of our employees that make up Physical Plant are in the high-risk age group. Myself I have a Compromised daughter that I was very worried that I would bring it home to her and the rest of the family. In Physical Plant (Electrical-Plumbing-HVAC-Carpentry-Paint-Machine-Adaptive Equipment-Warehouse-Powerhouse-Grounds) we still came to work every day, and still had to maintain all the buildings on grounds with or without COVID-19 positive individuals. All while 45% of our population tested positive for the virus and 4 staff deaths. This made our jobs very uneasy and stressful. The reason for asking for specialized hazard pay of \$10/HR and updating the hazard pay definitions is the fact that we never dealt with anything like this highly infectious virus or given the choice to not become essential.

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

Thank you.

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