

**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 NaJhai Gomes-Walton. I am a resident of Terryville and a member of CEUI. I work at The Department of Veteran Affairs and I am a Storekeeper Assistant.

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.

As a Storekeeper Assistant, I am labeled an essential worker. Due to my current duties, I am putting myself and my family at risk. On a daily basis, I pick up mail and packages from our local post office which is putting myself at risk. I am handing mail & packages out to our Veterans throughout the day, face to face and which we were doing in without any plexi-glass up until the beginning of this year.

As storekeeper assistant, we are mobile. Which means, we are moving throughout the campus delivering mail and packages. As well as making multiple trips to the post office.

Being an essential worker during this time has put worry in my heart because when I return home, I have family members that I can potentially expose COVID to.

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

Thank you.

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