

**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 Ben Ludwig. I am a resident of Winsted and a member of CEUI, Local 511. I work at **Southbury Training School** and I am a **QCWHVAC employee**.

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, 2020, the physical plant maintenance employees of Southbury Training School were deemed as essential employees, as we are thankful to have been able to work during this pandemic it has been a very stressful experience, most of our employees are of the high-risk age group and I myself have elderly parents at home, and my wife has asthma so this whole time I have been worried about getting sick and spreading it to my family. The reason for asking for specialize hazard pay of \$10/hour and updating the hazard pay definitions is the fact that we have never dealt with anything like this highly infectious virus. The Southbury Training School is more like a home to the many people that live here than it is a hospital. During this pandemic we have had to go in and out of buildings with COVID positive people in them to work on the heating, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical systems, and the many other things needed to keep this place running comfortable and safe for everyone living and employed here.

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

Thank you.

**Ben Ludwig
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