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Latiera Massey
Home Visitor, TEAM Inc. Early Education Program

**An Act Concerning Labor Issues Related to Covid-19, Personal Protective
Equipment and Other Staffing Matters, HB6595 and SB 1002**

Committee on Labor and Public Employees

March 11, 2021

Good afternoon, members of the Labor Committee. My name is Latiera Massey. I'm a member of 32BJ SEIU and I have been an employee of TEAM INC. since 2015, first as a Head Teacher for a few months, and since then as a Home Visitor. I have been in the Early Childhood field for 24 consecutive years and have always excelled at caring for the families and children served.

I'd like to speak to you today about the essential work I perform, and why I think the labor bill related to covid-19 should have your support.

Home Visitors were out only the first week after the shutdown last March, and we have been working consistently since. I started by calling families once a week to inquire about their safety and wellbeing. I provided families with support by making sure parents who did not have transportation received diapers and wipes. I actively listened to families who were struggling with adjusting to the pandemic and provided valuable information to help ease their minds and anxiety. I kept in touch with community outreach programs to confirm that the information being shared with the families was accurate and up to date due to COVID 19 restrictions. I overall provided a sense of assurance that the families are supported and valued by the program and myself and we are all in this pandemic together as a TEAM.

During this time, I had two coronavirus exposures, in April and November, and was required to quarantine for 14 days each time. I was paid utilizing sick time, personal sick time, and vacation time.

I sent an email requesting, if possible, simply not to be paid. I didn't want to sacrifice all my paid time off because I performed my job and caught the coronavirus. HR informed me that I did not have enough time to cover the second quarantine, and was verbally told that it was against TEAM policy to not be paid if PTO time is available.

As workers with pre-school children and their families, we should be recognized for the sacrifices we perform and have the hazard pay included in this bill. Furthermore, I believe the hazards of the job should also allow us to be paid without sacrificing our PTO. Thank you for your attention.