



Local 32BJ
Headquarters
25 West 18th Street
New York, NY 10011-1991
212.388.3800

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www.seiu32bj.org

Marlie Meranville
Sbarro worker, Darien Northbound I-95 Service Plaza

**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 Marlie Meranville and I'd like to explain why I support the bill on Labor Issues Related to Covid-19.

I work at Sbarro's about 30 hours a week at the service plaza in Darien on I-95. It's usually a busy service plaza, and I work at a busy time -- the dinner hour. I have many responsibilities on my shift, making sure everyone in the restaurant is doing their job and also doing my job as well. For this, I make \$13 an hour, one dollar more than minimum wage. I live with my mother and pay her rent. She also works at the service plaza, at two jobs, Sbarro and Chipotle.

My mother's name is Bertha Ruzeau. I know she was going to speak today but couldn't come because of her work schedule. She had to help open the Sbarro store this morning, very early, and she'll be at Chipotle right after that. She won't finish until 11:30 tonight. Sometimes, I've made extra money by borrowing my mom's car to do deliveries with Instacart. We work at the same restaurant and we live together, but we don't see each other very much.

Still, we're lucky. No worker at Sbarro's has gotten sick, only the boss and his wife. I do have health insurance, but only through my dad because I'm 24 years old. I don't have any paid sick days, though. I don't know what would happen if I had to lose all those hours and all those paychecks.

Many restaurants have lost business because of Covid, but at Chipotle, where my mom works, I know the company made \$355 million in profits in 2020. It's the company's third highest annual profit ever. I also know none of that money has come down to my mom and her coworkers.

Service plaza workers see people from everywhere, all the time. We are essential. The plazas have to stay open. They have to provide food. I think we should get hazard pay for all we do, and I think we should have some support if we get sick, with pay for the time we lose from the companies. Thank you.