

**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 **Jason Negrini**. I am a resident of Cromwell and a member of CEUI. I work at The Department of Veterans Affairs Home and Hospital and I am the Lead Mail Handler. I handle all mail and packages for the agency.

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.

I was a non-essential state employee before the pandemic hit us and as soon as it did the Commissioner deemed the mailroom staff essential. I was working 6 days a week delivering mail to all the wings and hospital wards along with being face to face with all the Veteran residents that pick up their mail on a daily basis. I am putting my spouse and kids at risk when I come home every day from completing my essential duties. Until the beginning of this year we were handing out mail/packages to the veterans without any Plexiglas or barriers to protect us. Not only are we in the mailroom we are traveling from building to building delivering the staff mail/packages, in which they didn't have any Plexiglas or protection until the beginning of this year as well. I've been working in these hazardous conditions since March of 2020 and the weekly Covid testing didn't start until July of 2020. We are here serving those who've served under these hazardous conditions.

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

Thank you for your time!
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