

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 **Beatriz Sanchez-Lara**. I am a resident of **Meriden** and a member of CEUI. I work at The Department of Veteran Affairs and I am an Assistant Cook.

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 support this legislation because it would only be fair to receive hazard pay considering we are essential employees, we work in an area where many residents and employees have had COVID.

Yes I kept my distance from my family because I worked in a high risk area couldn't see them for months. Thankfully I was able to get tested once a week since June/July of 2020. I came into work every single day didn't miss one day of work, but deep down I wanted to call out some days because I was scared that I could catch the virus.

I just feel unappreciated when you know that people who work at McDonald's and Target got some kind of extra money or hazard pay starting around our first lockdown. When people on unemployment got more money than I did a week when I was physically working. I understand that they needed that money to feed their families which is a good thing. Many people lost their jobs and I was Fortunate to keep mine but at what cost? We work in a place that has PPE like face shields and goggles which is for our safety. If this wasn't a hazardous work place we wouldn't need it, right?

If you google "What is hazard pay" it says the following an "income in addition to regular wages given for performing work under hazardous or dangerous conditions". Which I would say a pandemic, Covid-19 falls under.

So with all that being said. Yes I do agree that we deserve hazard pay.

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

Thank you.

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