

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 Julio Torres. I am a resident of Waterbury, CT and a member of CEUI I work at Department of Veteran Affairs and I am a Food Service Supervisor.

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.

During this Covid-19 Pandemic, My family and I were extremely scared of being exposed and bringing this virus home to our children, 1 who has underlining health conditions. Due to this pandemic, it made it difficult due to school closing and child care expenses for my daughter when my wife and I are at work, because we are considered essential employees. This constant fear is still with us every day as this pandemic isn't going anywhere anytime soon. While some people who are not essential, had the luxury to stay home with their loved ones, and still was able to collect unemployment making more money than lots of us essential employees. We had no other choice but to come to work in a high risk condition. This is not only unfair, but basically unnerving.

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

Thank you.

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