

**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 David Valentin. I am a resident of Middletown and a member of CEUI. I work at The Department of Veterans Affairs and I am a Maintainer.

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.

As an essential employee for the State of Connecticut, working during the pandemic has caused nothing but stress, anxiety and depression. Therefore, as an essential worker I started to feel unsafe in the environment I was working in because of the result of the virus. Stress and anxiety started to appear within myself throughout the year because it seemed no one was really quite paying attention to how severe the virus was getting especially when we had to go on infected floors. Also, depression started to occur because when an individual including myself is in this type of situation including working with elders or even being so close together in a small space, that they feel they cannot get out of because they need to still pay their bills and continue to have a living it can make you very worried. In conclusion, being an essential worker I understand that it is our job to be first responders but we also got to watch everyone stay home and stay in their comfortable environments and also not have stress as much I have while working at The Department of Veteran Affairs.

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

Thank you.
David Valentin
Middletown CT
860-929-6495
Drvalentin3@gmail.com