

**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 **Justin Ventura** I am a resident of Colchester and a member of **CEUI**. I work at **The Department of Veterans Affairs** and I am a **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.

From the start the Pandemic I have worked in close proximity with other cooks, the veteran work force and the residents. As a cook I was required to come to work every day and serve those who have served. To be honest I was extremely fearful because I have underlying health issues. The fear of catching the virus and bringing home to mom was extremely stressful. The stress and anxiety kicked into overdrive as we learned of our 1st confirmed case on campus. Honestly it's hard to describe the feelings you experience when you are working under such hazardous conditions. Driving to work from Colchester early in the morning is indescribable. The empty highway and flashing warning signs to stay home and stay safe made all more real and added to the stress level.

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

Thank you.
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