

**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 Audrey Williams. I am a resident of Hartford and a member of CEUI. I work at Department Of Veterans 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.

From the start of the Pandemic I have worked closely with other workers. Our department was never closed during the Pandemic. As a Food Service Supervisor I had to deliver food to residents on wings where they lived including delivery to the Covid floor . As a 62 year old with some health issues of my own, I was scared to death that I might catch the deadly virus. Coming to work every day was extremely stressful. Things were changing so quickly. More and more residents and staff were contracting the virus, but one thing remained the same... I was an essential employee along with my coworkers and we were required to be here. We did not begin testing for some time. This only intensified the anxiety even more because every time I felt differently I began to panic that I had covid. I never imagined that I would work for an entire year under such hazardous conditions

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

Thank you.
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