Chairs, Labor and Public Employees Committee,

Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am submitting testimony today to express my support for H.B. 5353, An Act Concerning a Fair Work Schedule - and ask you to vote in favor of this legislation.

Every worker in Connecticut should have access to a stable job that gives them access to opportunity and treats them with respect.

Tens of thousands of workers in Connecticut begin their work week without a schedule. They work "on-call", with unpredictable, fluctuating workweeks which they have no control over. They cannot rely on their jobs to provide stability or a reliable paycheck. They are denied full-time hours, so they don't receive benefits - and they cannot seek another job, as they don't have a fixed schedule.

The effects are devastating for working families - and this impact has been even more devastating for low-wage workers, especially people of color, who saw their income fall during the pandemic.

Jobs should be a source of stability and opportunity - and workers deserve to be treated with respect.

H.B. 5353 will put an end to these practices, ensuring that more than 140,000 retail, food service, and hotel workers have more predictable schedules and reliable paychecks. The bill will give part-time employees the opportunity to work more hours, requiring employers to offer extra shifts to current workers before hiring additional staff. More than anything, it will ensure that employers treat their employees with respect, setting their schedules in advance and providing compensation for any late changes.

When you can’t rely on your job it makes it impossible to pay bills, plan childcare, stay healthy, and get ahead. Connecticut Working Families deserve to have jobs that respect their time - and give them a chance to thrive and prosper.

Connecticut families cannot wait any longer. I strongly urge you to support H.B. 5353, the Fair Workweek bill, this session.

Thomas Connolly
tom324@sbcglobal.net
16 Greenhurst Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107