

Name: Alida Arreaga

Title:

Organization or Agency: Hartford Deportation Defense

Topic: HB05384 - AAC THE NUMBER OF WAGE AND HOUR INSPECTORS AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Supports

Testimony:

March 5th, 2024

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Kushner, Rep Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alida Arreaga, I live in Hartford and I am a member of Hartford Deportation Defense. We are also part of Connecticut For All. I am here today to testify in support of HB5384: AN ACT CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF WAGE AND HOUR INSPECTORS AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

As a worker I want to share with you why hiring more inspectors at the CT Department of Labor is important to me. This is my lived experience.

When you have a job the responsibility starts at home. Back then I was getting up very early to do a little bit of stuff in the mornings. I had to time myself exactly right to catch the bus to get to work on time and accomplish what I was supposed to do. Not to mention that I was two months pregnant and still had other responsibilities at home, we make it a priority to get our work done while we still have it. At the end of the week the check sometimes wasn't delivered until the following week. Therein comes the confidence that your check is stored and that it is safe and sometimes it would come to the point where you would get two checks together. What I am getting at with all this is that in the end I got more than one check together and to my surprise when I tried to cash them they did not have funds at that moment. I went to the manager and even to the owner but there was never a solution until today. Last Friday I filed a complaint with the Department of Labor to denounce Mofongo Restaurant for stealing my paycheck. This is my story.

Without proper staffing at the Department of Labor, the state of Connecticut is unable to properly enforce labor laws in our state. Wage theft is disgraceful, and impacting our members' ability to stay healthy and housed and care for their families. Please support HB5384 to hire 45 additional wage and hour inspectors to meet the need.

Thank you,
Alida Arreaga
Hartford CT