

NATALIE DIPENTINO
West Enfield
LD 599

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, Honorable Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Natalie DiPentino. I live and vote in WestEnfield, Maine.

I offer the following testimony in favor of LD 599 for the following reasons:

In the past I worked as a store manager for GNC, corporate. As store manager in a rural college town, I thought I had a fair salary and good benefits. I was fully responsible for the store opening, closing, inventory, deposits, hiring, firing and training employees. My store was successful and I won many awards. Despite raises and because of the nature of retail, I worked at least 70 hrs many weeks. My pay was based on a 40 hr work week.

For the weeks I worked 70 hrs, I did not receive overtime and I was barely making more than minimum wage. I had employees making more than I did because I wasn't paid hourly. Daycare was expensive. Had I received overtime I would have struggled less. I shouldn't have struggled at all. While bonuses are helpful, they don't help when you still have to live paycheck to paycheck.

This bill would protect salaried workers and ensure they are paid fairly for their work beyond the 40 to 45 hr work week. Please consider passing it.