

**Written Testimony of Roberta Greaver
Grocery Worker and Member of
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 75
Before
Senate Judiciary Committee
Ohio State Legislature
Wednesday, June 24, 2020**

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee my name is Roberta Greaver and I am a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 75, and I am testifying today in support of the workers compensation amendment in HB 606.

I have been a member of UFCW Local for over 42 years and I have been working at Kroger since the outbreak of coronavirus in Ohio started. It has been very scary to continue to show up to work knowing several co-workers and customers have contracted the virus. It is uncomfortable and stressful dealing with increased customer frustrations about whether we are taking enough precautions – while others think we are taking too many. There have even been instances of customers spitting on grocery employees over disputes about social distancing. While my co-workers and I continue to protect customers – and each other – by wearing our masks every day, only about half (or less) of customers are still wearing masks to protect us. While news reports indicate that coronavirus will likely get worse and my company is continuing to install protective barriers it seems the general public has forgotten about COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also negatively affected me personally. Before COVID-19, my favorite weekend activity was dinner and a movie with my grandkids Shayla (17), Anthony (14), and Jason (19). Jason recently finished leukemia treatments and has a diminished immune system, coupled with my increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 at work, I have not been able to see them in months and have already missed two birthdays.

The work that my co-workers and I do every day ensures Ohioans can feed their families. I am fortunate to be working, but I am on the frontlines every day and risking my health to feed my community. During the peak of this pandemic I was sometimes exposed to thousands of people a day in my store. This pandemic is far from over and my co-workers and I are still at high risk of exposure. Passage of this amendment would protect me if I ever contract coronavirus.

I deserve to go to a job everyday where my employer cares about my safety and does everything they can to make sure we don't get sick. I can say this to you today because I am a member of a union that supports me when I lift up my voice, but that is not true for every worker in Ohio. I hope that some of the other provisions of this bill that protects bad employers does not become law.

I urge you to show your support for the workers like me that have kept our communities families fed during this difficult time. Please support HB 606 and protect me from the anxiety and hardship of contracting coronavirus.

Thank you,

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