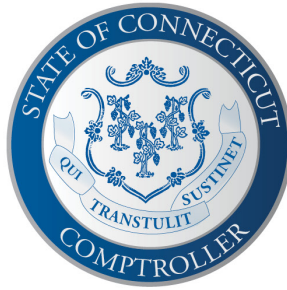


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STATE COMPTROLLER



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**Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
February 25, 2020**

S.B. 227 An Act Concerning a Fair Work Week Schedule

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Miner, Representative Polletta, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 227 An Act Concerning A Fair Work Week Schedule.

There are thousands of Connecticut employees working tirelessly to provide Connecticut with our common goods. They serve our food, take care of our families, sell us our clothes, build our homes, and so much more than we realize – and yet we often depend on their work every day. This dependence and hard work should be treated with a commensurate level of respect of their time from their employers and that is why I am testifying in support of S.B 227.

This legislation allows employees to decline work that has not been presented to them in a timely manner, allowing them to maintain a work-life balance. It requires that employees receive a portion of their pay when an employer unexpectedly cancels a shift, meaning employees will not be left without payment under circumstances out of their control. It mandates that employees receive 1.5x pay when they work a new shift within 11 hours of completing their last shift, compensating people for the level of exhaustion and hard work invested.

These are just a few of the provisions included in this bill that will protect and respect employees' time and will give them more autonomy in their schedules. It will protect their wages and their work-life balance. These are protections that the workforce deserves and I'm proud to support this bill.

Thank you to the chairs and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee for raising this important legislation and for your leadership on this issue.