

Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee

My name is Ry Som and I work in Portland OR

I came here to tell you my story about working in manufacturing. The work itself is very hard and hot. I made bagels and the machines get so hot they have fans blowing on them, but then the heat and steam blows in my face and I have to try to catch my breath.

During work sometimes my machine will break, I do not get a break when this happens, the supervisor will put me on a new machine because orders have to be done. Sometimes my coworkers are crying when they're working because they can't work fast enough to keep up with the machines and are scared they will get hurt.

When I first started, I was told I would be working 8 hour days, that was true for the first week. For the 2nd and 3rd week, I was asked to work 12.5-13 hour days for 6 days a week. I noticed I was only getting paid for the first 12 hours, when I asked them why they told me I would only get paid for 12 hours regardless of how much I worked over. So I started only working 12 hours after that. I continued to work 12 hours a day for 6 days a week.

Lots of my co-workers don't speak English. Sometimes they don't know what they're supposed to do, and I try to translate with hand motions so they know what to do. One day, a Spanish speaking worker was trying to figure out where to put the hot products. I don't speak Spanish, but I was trying to show them. Sometimes the supervisor got mad that I turned off my machine in order to go and help them, and sometimes they thank me for helping.

3-4 people have gotten hurt while I was at work. One coworker had his arm burnt, his skin was peeling. The supervisor put expired medicine on it and he was asked to continue working. I used to work on the bagel machine that had seeds on it. I had an allergic reaction, and asked to leave to go to the doctor and they wouldn't let me until I had finished my shift. I was admitted to the ER later that night and couldn't return to work for 3 days to recover.

I've work in manufacturing _____ years and it's the hardest work I've ever done. Please consider everything I've told you about my work as you think about changing this overtime law.