

**Kristie Schmidt, UFCW Local 663 member at Cub Foods
Minnesota Frontline Worker Pay Working Group
Minnesota Legislature
Written testimony submitted for 8/12/2021**

Good afternoon, Chair and Commissioners, my name is Kristie Schmidt and I live in Eagan. I am here today to voice my support to this working group in favor of providing frontline worker pay for all frontline essential workers.

I work as the customer service manager at Cub Foods in Burnsville and am a member of UFCW Local 663. Grocery workers were designated as essential in March of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

In fact, our union fought for us to be eligible as Tier 1 essential workers. Tier 1 status made all the difference for my family when I had to find child care.

When my union told me about the Tier 1 status, I looked into it right away. My son is 11 years old. I ended up finding a spot for him through the YMCA program through school district 196 for free during the school year.

Having my kid in child care gave me some peace of mind, knowing he was being taken care of while I was at work

It takes a village of essential workers, just to name a few right now--whether it be me or my coworkers helping you at the grocery store to get the food you need for your family, my fellow union family working in meatpacking in Worthington, long-term care providers, nurses and doctors, transit drivers, and child care providers who helped to take care of my child when the pandemic first hit.

I support frontline worker pay for *all* frontline essential workers because we continue working to keep this state running, while exposing ourselves and our families to extreme risk in doing so. The pandemic hasn't ended, therefore we still all deserve hazard pay.

Please include all essential frontline workers for frontline worker pay, and thank you for the opportunity to comment today.