

**Mark Husbyn, UFCW Local 663 member at Cub Foods, for the
Frontline Worker Pay Working Group
Minnesota Legislature
Tuesday, August 26, 2021**

Good afternoon Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Mark Husbyn and I live in Isanti. I am here today to voice my support to this working group in favor of providing frontline worker pay for grocery and meatpacking workers.

I'm a meat cutter and UFCW Local 663 member at Cub Foods in Crystal. I've been a Journeyman Meat Cutter since 1991.

Before COVID, a typical day was really easy--I would go to work, come home and spend time with family.

After COVID began, there were no longer good days at work. I worry now going to work every day. I try to protect myself the best I can, for myself and for my family. The scariest part of it is that I am risking my family's health by going to work.

I got covid in November. I was out for 2 weeks of work.

The first week I was actually on vacation deer hunting. I kept falling asleep in the deer stand, and figured I had covid and had to rush home to get tested.

I quarantined in my room, but my wife and daughter got infected. My other daughter and son were okay. I would take it minute by minute sometimes, honestly. I was sleeping 16 hours a day. I have never been sicker in my life. All you do is think about your family. I thought if I die, I lose my pension, then my family has nothing.

I feel good now, but I come home from work exhausted, and I can't even go work outside. It does seem like I lost a lot of energy from having covid.

Having COVID changed my life forever. Now, I especially take every single precaution to prevent getting it or spreading it again.

My feeling about the frontline worker pay is everybody should get a piece of the pie. Customers would come into grocery stores without masks, yet the companies are too scared to lose a customer and not allow them in the store.

To me, that is unacceptable. That would never fly in a hospital setting. I think that those working in retail are some of the most vulnerable because people come in without any

protection. Please make it right and provide frontline essential worker pay to all grocery and meatpacking workers for the services we continue to provide to our communities. Thank you for your time.