

**Testimony of Deputy Commissioner Carlos Ortiz
New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection**

**Before the Committees on Consumer and Worker Protection and Transportation and
Infrastructure**

**Oversight Hearing on Update on Dining Out NYC Program and
Introductions 1142, 1320, 1368, 1421, 1423, 1426, 1444, 1446**

November 24, 2025

Introduction

Good morning, Chair Menin, Chair Brooks-Powers, and members of the Committees. My name is Carlos Ortiz, I am the Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs at the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Introduction 1368, which requires employers to provide paid time off to their employees for bereavement following any firearm related death of a family member of the employee.

Protecting New York's Workers

DCWP enforces key worker and consumer protections and offers financial empowerment resources that improve critical aspects of New Yorkers' daily economic lives. We ensure that consumers who have been deceived or exploited have recourse, that workers have a passionate defender of their rights, and that all New Yorkers have the support they need to improve their financial health. Under Commissioner Mayuga's tenure, we have delivered almost \$2 billion back to New Yorkers.

DCWP serves as the City's central resource for workers in New York City. The laws that we enforce provide workers with greater stability in their schedules, income, and employment. We strive to ensure compliance with these essential workplace laws and secure restitution for workers who have faced violations in the workplace. Under Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga's tenure, DCWP has delivered close to \$51 million in restitution for more than 35,000 workers.

One of our cornerstone workplace laws is New York City's Paid Safe and Sick Leave law (PSSL), covering nearly 4 million workers across the City. PSSL ensures New Yorkers have the right to take paid time off work to care for themselves or loved ones when they're sick, need preventive care, or to access services or take safety measures related to domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking or human trafficking. DCWP has continuously worked to improve PSSL in recent years, providing more protected reasons for the use of PSSL, conducting informational campaigns on PSSL, implementing the paid prenatal leave law, and more. Since 2022, DCWP secured \$13 million in restitution for more than 29,500 workers for violations of PSSL. We are very proud of the success we have had in strengthening these protections and will continue to ensure that PSSL remains a crucial workplace right for working families and individuals.

Introduction 1368

DCWP supports the intent of Introduction 1368, which would amend PSSL to provide employees with paid bereavement time following any firearm related death of a family member of the employee. New Yorkers should never have to make a choice between caring for themselves or maintaining their livelihood. DCWP thanks Council Member Salamanca for this piece of legislation and looks forward to working with the Council and relevant stakeholders on these protections.

Conclusion

We would like to express our thanks to Council Member Salamanca for this important piece of legislation and for the opportunity to testify on today's bill. We look forward to working with the Council and relevant stakeholders to provide these protections for all New Yorkers.