

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

**Before the Committee on Immigration  
Hearing on Introductions 214, 1268, 1272, 1412**

**December 8, 2025**

***Introduction***

Good morning, Chair Avilés, and members of the Committee. 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 1272.

***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 Vilda Vera 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 protect and promote labor standards and policies that create fair workplaces to ensure all workers can realize their rights, regardless of immigration status. We strive to ensure compliance with our essential workplace laws and secure restitution for workers who have faced violations in the workplace. Under Commissioner Mayuga's tenure, DCWP has delivered close to \$90 million in restitution for more than 50,000 workers. We are very proud of the success we have had in strengthening these protections and will continue to ensure that working families and individuals have these crucial workplace rights, regardless of immigration status.

***Introduction 1272***

DCWP supports the intent of Introduction 1272, which intends to restrict employers from using E-Verify or any other employment eligibility verification system to check the employment authorization status of an employee or an applicant who has not been offered employment, except when federally required. Our understanding is that there are serious problems with the E-Verify system. However, we have concerns that this legislation may be duplicative of existing requirements.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) E-Verify reference guide, employers are already required to display E-Verify participation posters in English and Spanish and provide each employee with notice of and the opportunity to take action on a Tentative Nonconfirmation (mismatch). Additionally, employers are already prohibited from using E-

Verify to pre-screen job applicants for employment. As a result, it may not create meaningful new protections to write these requirements into city law.

There is also existing law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived “immigration and citizenship status” and “national origin,” among other categories, by employers in New York City. In January of 2025, CCHR issued updated guidance on national origin discrimination, which discusses document abuse and instances in which reverification of employment could be unlawful under the NYC Human Rights Law.

### ***Conclusion***

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the committee on these issues and today’s bill. DCWP welcomes continued collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders, workers’ advocates, and the Council to ensure that workplace protections and resources are available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.