

Written Testimony of Jennifer Stenavage

Hello, my name is Jennifer Stenavage and I reside at 215 W 140 Street Apt B1 New York, New York 10030. I worked for Wal-Mart in White Plains for 3 years. The experiences I had working for Wal-Mart were some of the worst in my life. Under constant supervision and strict rules I felt threatened and could never have ease of mind at work.

On some occasions I was discriminated against due to taking time off for health issues I suffer from. The company was aware of my health issues when they hired me and I always gave notice before taking time off. Eventually I was unjustly fired after three years because of my health issues.

While working at Wal-Mart I had to rely on state funded health insurance because their plan was too expensive. I could not afford to pay \$300 a month for health insurance.

Not only did I feel discriminated against because of my health issues; I also felt discriminated against because of my gender. I often saw how men were given gratitude for their work both monetarily and with a thank you from management. I would think to myself I do the same job and get paid less and never get any gratitude. I just knew this wasn't right and that it was unfair.

But not only did Wal-Mart discriminate against me because my health and gender, they also tried to break the law. I suffered an accident while working on the cash register; I fell over and hit my back on the counter. When this accident occurred Wal-Mart was hesitant to call an ambulance, I had to plead with them to call an ambulance that I was seriously hurt. They even went as far as trying to deny me my workers compensation. I now suffer from lower back pain and I am in excruciating pain when trying to lift things.

Due to these intimidating working conditions co-workers would often express interest in forming a union, when this happened they were fired on the spot. The

talk of unionization was not tolerated. We knew if management found out we were talking about a union we would be fired, we were afraid to lose our jobs.

I now work at Stop & Shop a union employer. I have job security, affordable healthcare and ease of mind at work. I can't be fired at my employer's will. I have a voice on the job.

I am glad to be sharing my story and unveiling the truth about what it's like working for Wal-Mart. I also hope this brings awareness to the New York City Council about why Wal-Mart is not good for New Yorkers and jobs in New York City.

Thank You