

From: [Hilary Klein](#)
To: wageboard@labor.ny.gov
Subject: Testimony from Juana Tenesaca, Tipped Workers Deserve a Raise
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Testimony from Juana Tenesaca (718-607-7251)

Tipped Workers Deserve a Raise

Good afternoon. My name is Juana Tenesaca and I'm a member of Make the Road New York. I have been living in Queens for 25 years. I came to this country with the aim of a better future for my family because life in Ecuador was very hard. I have six children who depend on me. I'm a single mother so I play the role of mother and father.

Since I came to this country, I have worked at many jobs, including babysitting and housekeeping, but working for tips has been the most brutal for me because of the pay. I have worked as a waitress for years, earning the tipped minimum wage, and it's been impossible to raise my six children never knowing how much money I'll bring home at the end of the day.

For two years, I worked in a bakery and restaurant as a waitress, but I had to cook and clean too. I worked different schedules, but often for 11-hour shifts, from 4:00am - 3:00pm. I was paid \$55/day plus tips, but sometimes I would go home with no tips at all. I had to work six days a week because I was earning such a low salary, which meant that I did not have time to spend with my children. My daughter had to get a job while she was still in high school to help support the family, and that breaks my heart.

Tipped workers should not have to depend on tips as part of their regular salary. Sometimes we go home with no tips at all, and many employers do not compensate us to make up the difference.

We work very hard and we deserve a raise, just like other minimum wage workers in this state. I'm calling on the Wage Board to do the right thing and eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers. Thank you.