

TESTIMONY

Pennsylvania Senate Committee on Local Government
June 23rd, 2017

Good morning Chairman Wagner, Senator Williams, and the members of the Committee on Local Government.

My name is Angel Medina and I am a resident of Philadelphia living in the Parkwood section in Sen. Sabatina's legislative district.

I have worked at Coca-Cola for nine years as a sales associate. I focus on small stores like bodegas, pizza shops, etc. My route covers the northeast section of the city.

I am here this morning to talk about the harm the Philadelphia Beverage Tax has caused my family, my community, and me.

The sales on my route are down 35-40%, which equates to 150-200 dollars a week in lost income. I have had to take on another job to go along with the two that I already had just to cover my bills. Even with three jobs, I am living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet. I know that \$150-\$200 dollars a week may not sound like much but multiply that by four and it is a significant amount of money, especially for a family of five.

I am not alone. A storeowner on my route recently closed his doors after more than 40 years of being in business due to this burdensome tax. This tax is a hardship on the working-man and on the poor and it is this city's responsibility to right this wrong.

I do not buy beverages in the city anymore- I go outside of the city to get my beverages, as do most of the customers I service. It is real, people are leaving the city to buy their beverages and my paycheck is proof of that.

I am asking for your help in finding a solution other than this painful tax. A fair solution that does not target one sector of our City's businesses.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I welcome any questions the Committee may have.