



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 73**  
**State and Local Government and Private Employers- Teleworking**

**To: Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair and members of the Appropriations Committee**

**From: Gino Renne, President, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, International Vice President, UFCW**

Telework is no longer just an option to offer, it is a necessary mode of work not only to help us slow the spread of COVID-19 but also to lessen the ecological impact that commuting has on our world. **If an employee can telework, they should be teleworking.** Local 1994 MCGEO support HB 73 - **State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking** – to encourage employers to implement thoughtful and productive teleworking policies in their workplaces.

Local 1994 members have been teleworking during this pandemic to the extent practicable and have been very successful in fulfilling their obligations to the public and to their employers.

Pre-pandemic, in 2018, nearly a quarter of the U.S. workforce (23.7%) worked some hours from home on an average day. And according to the Eno Center for Transportation, as of 2017 more Americans work from home than commute via mass transit.

With traffic in our area often subject to great congestion, a modest improvement to teleworking policies could have a dramatic impact on commuting issues. Clearly, anyone who has been on a teleconference in the past 10 months knows that access to broadband internet is crucial to better use of teleworking and should be subsidized for employees choosing to telework.

Local 1994 urges passage of HB 73 to increase the use of telework. Thank you.