

My Name is Mr. Thurmun Bell

I am a 30-year employee from the JHH where I work as an Instrument Processor which means I am responsible making sure that surgical instruments and tools are sterilized for surgeries and procedures in the operating rooms and surgical areas of the hospital it is, and important job and I enjoy it.

Because of the pandemic and the job that I performed I have been tested 3x in the past for COVID-19 19 all tests were negative until Christmas. We take extra precautions to wear our PPE in my work area due to the sterile environment. I do not know how but somehow myself and a few co-workers tested positive. With me this was and extreme hardship because I have underlying health issues such as my heart. Because it was the holidays I had been around my family so everyone had to be quarantined including my 6-month-old great granddaughter it was scary, my girlfriend was admitted for 7 days thank god she made it.

The good thing was that during talks with the union and labor management we get paid for 10 days but if we are out longer if you do not have anytime you are losing a paycheck and if you lose a paycheck you cannot pay your bills. We go to work everyday as do my other union members we can't afford to miss anytime.

This why I am supporting this bill we need to have legislation for continued PPE.

ADDITIONAL PAY something written as law so they just cannot change it anytime they want we do not know when this is going to end or if we are going to have another pandemic. We need guaranteed Protection