

TESTIMONY
Pennsylvania Senate Committee on Local Government
October 17,2017

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.