

We're now in week two of the petition action to stop the Comp Time bill in the Senate. View the action at http://images.usw.org/download/rapid/ActionCall_Comp_Time_Updated.pdf. Why is Comp Time a problem? Find answers in our Q & A piece (http://images.usw.org/download/rapid/Comp_Time_QA.pdf) or read on for USW members' views.

You Said It

Last month, we asked for your overtime stories to use in our efforts to stop the “comp time” bill. Some of you shared previous experiences in private sector jobs that had comp time.

“I was a salaried employee and we worked lots of “extra” hours that we were promised “comp” time for but never received or only received when the company saw fit to let you take it. . .Overtime pay is the only way to guarantee workers are compensated for their extra work hours.” – Lionel S.

“I worked as an “exempt” employee in a management position for over 10 years and now work hourly under a collective bargaining agreement so I have seen both sides of this issue. . .I was owed hundreds of hours of “comp” time that my employer never reimbursed me for. . .I am now paid for all hours that I work and an hour and a half for every hour I work over 8 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week. I am paid properly for inconveniencing myself and my family for the benefit of my employer. . .“Comp” time is only flexible for the employer.” – Michael R.

Many who work mandatory overtime weighed in.

“We are already working when we clearly have no choice. We will be forced time off when it's not acceptable to our needs or our family's. It's a clear way of completely controlling a worker without having to compensate him or her for their missed family events, forcing them to work then forcing them off when your family is at school and work. . .It's clearly a corporate plan to cut our needed overtime pay for free, laughing all the way to the bank.” – James C.

Some who have spent a lot of time dealing with company tactics see major concerns.

“This bill would more aptly be named the “end of vacation and sick pay act.” This bill will empower employers to create more leverage to force workers to work more overtime, not less. They will accomplish this by eliminating paid vacation and sick pay and then allow employees to ‘earn it back.’” – Jon G.

Others noted why they need their overtime pay.

“My overtime helps to set up my college fund for my son and helps me to be able to help my elderly mother with her expenses due to her fixed income. Simply stated, as an American worker here in the United States, I do NOT want this bill to pass because it will virtually destroy families that depend on overtime to make ends meet.” – Darlene W.

And, still others reminded us of our history.

“We fought for a 40-hour work week for a reason and those reasons need not be pushed aside for corporate profits. . .To allow legislation to simply push aside 80 years of struggle for workers' rights with the stroke of a pen without a fight is completely unacceptable.” – Jack T.

Please make sure your local is taking action. We can stop this bill in the Senate!

PROTECT OUR WAGES AND WORKPLACES

NO TO COMP TIME