Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a coach driver, currently earning around 26 per hour.

I am married with two adult children and two grandchildren. I have a mortgage.

If penalty rates were abolished... My income would drop by a third, I would struggle to complete paying my mortgage before retirement.My wife and I could not afford to assist my children and grandchildren or travel to visit them when we wish. Our family IS our life.

My weekends are important to me because... I assist with the coaching of my son's hockey team. I like to spend 'rest' time to ease out of the working week's stress and freshen up to do an important job SAFELY. I love to spend as much weekend time with

my family as possible for obvious reasons, and the grandchildren love to have me around when they're home on weekends. I endeavour not to miss any very important events because of weekend work, but if it's unavoidable and I have to work, I believe I deserve to be paid extra so that I can compensate my family in other ways.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. I am a very family-oriented man. I value my family more than any job, and I strongly believe that it is only fair that if I have to spend weekend time away from my family, I, and my family, should be compensated. If weekend penalty rates were abolished, the incentive for employers to value the working person's family life and time to 're-charge' would evaporate. Support family time, support penalty rates.

Submitted by
Rick Sullivan
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