



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
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LOCAL 73

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October 31, 2016
Testimony of Denise Wilson

Good Morning President Preckwinkle, Cook County Board of Commissioners.

I'm Denise Wilson. I'm a certified cashier in the Recorder of Deeds office, where I've worked for just shy of 14 years. I'm also a proud member and steward of SEIU Local 73.

Last Wednesday, the layoffs – the Reduction in Force – started in my office and throughout the county just a week after people received notice that they were losing their jobs. We're going to lose 17 people in my office alone and I'm concerned that we won't be able to give the residents of Cook County the service they expect and deserve. Because we're losing folks who have worked for the County for a long time, inexperienced workers now have to jump in without time for proper training. Lines are getting longer and everything is slowing down.

As a union steward, I hear from the people whose holidays are ruined now because they've lost their jobs. I see for myself the terrible effect on those who still have jobs and are doing everything they can to deliver quality services to our citizens with less training, less support and a lot more stress.

People like me who work for the County are taxpayers just like everyone else and we are just as concerned about making every dollar of the budget go as far as possible. At the same time, we also see firsthand the limits of trying to handle the workload with less and less hands. Across our county, people count on us for top-quality care in our hospitals and to keep everything humming along in all kinds of offices they contact every day. We can't let them down.

I urge you to do everything in your power not to displace any workers and to help us deliver top-notch services that everyone in our community depends on and deserves.

I am a Cook County taxpayer. I support the beverage tax and strongly encourage you to do the same.