

Dear New York State Legislature,

My name is Maria Morocho. I live in Brooklyn, New York and have been an ice cream vendor for over 10 years. I have work in and around the Bushwick neighborhood. I am a street vendor because when I first came to the United States, a long time ago, it was hard to find stable and available work for a newcomer who doesn't know English. I stayed with that job because I love to see the smiles on the children's faces when I arrive with my ice cream.

It has affected my life not having my own license/permit because I have not been able to sell peacefully and many times my materials such as ice cream have been taken away from me and it cost me a lot of money to recover, including fines.

I would really like us street vendors to be able to work in peace and dignity with permits. That we can move forward with pride in our work, to carry our families forward. This is why I ask that you approve our bill 1175/5081 and also that you allocate a one time investment of \$19 million dollars to properly fund the legalization of the street vending industry.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us and give us an opportunity to tell our stories and aspirations.

Best regards,

Maria P. Morocho