

Dear New York State Legislature,

My name is Maria Robles and I live at 541 west 142 st in Manhattan. I sell ice cream seasonally, from April to October, the place where I sell is 44th Street and 10th Avenue and then I walk everywhere. I have to stay away from the places where there are more people that might buy my ice cream but I can't for fear of the police arresting me.

One time without having been selling I was just washing my car and they handcuffed me and took me to the police station and locked me up with other prisoners and I was very scared. That had never happened to me before. They gave me tickets almost every year, two or three times a year they gave me tickets because at the stops or festivals I go out to sell but I am not occupying any place, I am walking sometimes with my daughter from one place to another. I have been selling ice cream since 2006 and I always tried to get a permit but I was denied because they said they were no longer giving out permits.

Now I want to tell you that if I work as a street vendor it is because I need to work to help my family, it is not enough what my husband works and there is no work, it is not easy to be a vendor, enduring the intense heat of the sun or the rain is not easy, and after all that not having a permit to work. It is very sad because they take everything from us, they take away our carts and the products that we buy with so much effort, they throw them away. I would like to have a permit to be able to work in peace and not be afraid.

My life would change if I had a permit. I want to ask the congressmen to help us, to support us by giving us permits to be able to work because we are workers and we want to be heard. I also ask that you allocate a one time investment of \$19 million dollars to properly fund the legalization of the street vending industry

Thank you very much legislators for listening to us.