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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL JOINS COALITION TO SUPPORT FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT WORKERS

Raoul Pushes to Protect Law Requiring Just Cause to Fire Workers

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of 15 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) to defend a New York City statute that requires just cause to fire or reduce the hours of a fast-food chain employee. This [law](#), which took effect in 2021, requires fast-food chain restaurant employers in New York City to provide a valid reason – such as unsatisfactory performance, misconduct, or a legitimate economic concern – before firing or reducing the hours of an employee.

Raoul and the coalition argue the law passed by New York City does not violate the National Labor Relations Act or the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

“It’s no secret fast-food workers suffer from low pay, and unexpected reductions in their hours, often result in financial hardship,” said Raoul. “I am committed to protecting the rights of workers to defend not only their wages but also their well-being.”

In the amicus brief, Attorney General Raoul and fellow attorneys general note that local and state authorities regularly enforce their labor laws to address violations of state minimum wages, overtime, prevailing wages and other protections, and that New York City’s statute is part of that sovereign authority.

The coalition brief, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, asks the court to uphold the ruling of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, which agreed that the just cause law is not preempted by federal law and does not violate the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Joining Attorney General Raoul in filing this brief are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington.