

Good Afternoon,

Mr. (or Madam) Chair, member of the committee:

My name is Angela Garner and I am here to testify in favor of a bill to ban the sale of alcohol and tobacco in the self-check outs.

I worked at Fred Meyer as a central check out cashier and at times oversaw and operated the self-checkout registers. The store I worked at has two sets with 4 registers each, it is not unusual to see only one cashier taken care of all 8 registers when the other person needs to take breaks, lunches or a second person is just not schedule to be there.

On the day I got suspended, which eventually lead to my termination, we were really busy and one of my registers was broken so I only had three to get people through as fast as possible. A PIC was in charge of the other set when a customer came up to him wanting to buy cigarettes, He had to wait to try and ring her up as his set of registers was also full. He chatted with her for a few minutes and then he asked if I had an empty spot. As I said "no", one became available; he handed me the cigarettes and her ID; I proceeded with the transaction and tried entering the date of birth but the system locked up three times. At that time I was starting to get a line of customers, I looked at the customer purchasing the cigarettes to see if she looked of age (as this is left to the cashier's discretion by the Employer) and overrode the system. Right after, a sheriff deputy approached me and told me I had sold to a minor and I was cited. When I asked the officer if I needed to notify my Employer, she told me it was up to me. The Company has a policy to terminate an Employee for being dishonest, so I wanted to make sure they knew what had happened to protect my job. I was immediately taken into the manager's office asked what had happened, place on suspension and eventually terminated.

The reality is, I had too many things happening at once and this was not intentional. I strongly believe alcohol and tobacco sales need to be ban from self-checkouts and be done face to face to assure they are done correctly. The Employer puts too much pressure on cashiers as it is to ring up transactions fast to get customer in and out, while also under staffing. We, as cashiers, need something to protect us from losing our jobs.

I have been out of work for over 5 months and things are getting financially difficult. Please consider this piece of legislature, to protect workers.

Thank you for your time.