

**Worker Misclassification Policy Hearing  
Senate Democratic Policy Committee  
November 15th, 2021  
Testimony from Chris White**

Hello, I'm Chris White, Philadelphia Drivers' Union President. I do hotel work and I drive for Uber and deliver for DoorDash.

Driving for Uber can be challenging. Earnings are inconsistent, and Uber takes a larger than fair percentage quite often. Sometimes they take more than 50 percent. When you factor in gas vehicle maintenance, and car insurance, we're barely making minimum wages.

To make matters worse, Uber does not pay all drivers fairly\*. Especially new drivers usually get much better bonus offers than those of us who have been consistently working for a long time. It's a bait and switch, to trap drivers into the work with expensive vehicles and then make it harder to earn what you did when you started. It might be hard to prove, but it's common knowledge for experienced drivers that the Uber algorithm will sometimes prevent you from getting enough trips to get bonuses, so as you get closer to earning your trip bonus the wait time between rides will get longer. If it was enforced that we are employees, we would have to be paid for the time we sit waiting.

They classify us as independent contractors, but they have the ability to deactivate us, sometimes without a good reason. False safety complaints are common from riders retaliating against drivers for enforcing rules like face masks or laws like car seats.

Drivers live in fear for our own safety. Car-jackings are up. A recent report out of Minneapolis showed that Minneapolis Police are responding to one car-jacking of a ride hail driver PER DAY. As a driver, I'm on edge constantly and my anxiety is high often. I've had drunk customers get aggressive. I was almost physically assaulted by a rider's boyfriend thinking I was the new boyfriend and not just her Uber driver. I pulled off and fortunately I had just a jammed door handle, but it could have been much worse. Certain areas are dangerous, so when I hear gunshots I have to tune the app off until I'm in a safer area. If I were to be injured on the job, how would I survive over the years it can take for the State Supreme Court to enforce my right to workers' compensation from Uber?

I contracted Covid 19 early 2020 driving for Uber and had to rely on my savings. I had to rely on my savings. This is why sick pay is necessary and is such an important topic. The couple hundred dollars that Uber and DoorDash were giving out temporarily wasn't even enough to cover vehicle costs that drivers have whether or not we're able to work.

Employers in other industries have paid attention to how Uber and DoorDash get away with ignoring labor laws and how no government agency enforces it. The first and fastest way to stop the Uberization of all work is focused and funded enforcement of all worker protections.

Senators, thank you for your time to hear from those of us who keep Pennsylvania moving.

\*sample of varying Uber bonus offers to drivers can be viewed here: [bit.ly/Phillydriverbonus](https://bit.ly/Phillydriverbonus)