I am writing in opposition to the NYC earnings standard’s aggregate pay requirement.

Currently, I work a full-time position with NYS, but I still don't make enough to cover all my bills and expenses. Because of my irregular and unpredictable schedule, most part time jobs don't provide a feasible option for me.

I started my gig work with Grubhub around 2018, and have been delivering for DoorDash and Uber for about the last 2 years. Since there's no requirement for when or how long you work, I figured there was no harm in giving it a try. It's turned out to be one of the best career decisions I've made.

I have found that having the flexibility to

work in whatever time I have available is an absolute necessity for me, and has made a definite positive impact on my financial health.

If I'm in a pinch I can spend less than an hour on the road to earn some quick cash and cover last minute things like gas, parking, tolls, overdrafts, Escrow shortages, etc.

This helps me not only to make ends meet, but work to maintain/ improve my credit score. Unlike my full time job, I can say that the harder I work, the more it pays off.... and if it didn't work for ME, I wouldn't keep doing it.

I definitely appreciate I am the one in control of which jobs I accept, complete or decline. I do NOT want to start seeing

things like "once accepted you must complete the order, " or "you must accept all offered jobs." Those are the type of requirements that make it more difficult for someone like me to earn additional income.

Because I can turn down job offers, I'm able to choose only safe places and times to work, as well as finding the best paying job offers available.

Employers like DoorDash and Uber are already offering very helpful incentives to their delivery partners, many of which are comparable to or even better than the incentives offered by my full time employer (cash back on gas, tuition, and discounts on food orders are just a few). I worry that these changes will limit companies' ability to provide us with these incentives.

In 2021, I underwent foot surgery and needed flexibility in my work conditions as I couldn't sit or stand for very long periods. My employer refused my request to work from home even for part of my schedule, which forced me to take leave instead.

Being able to "Dash" for DoorDash during those few months not only became a way to keep on top of my mounting medical expenses, but it also helped with my physical recovery, as I could give my foot daily exercise and stop as soon as I felt it was too much - something considered unreasonable by my full time employer.

The idea of setting a minimum wage for these positions sounds like a great idea until you consider all of the control that the worker would lose in the process.

The recent laws that have been put in place in NY have already solved many of the issues that used to be a problem for delivery workers. Now that I am able to set distance limits, see full trip information, time estimates, customer tips and more, I've enjoyed doing this work even more than before.

It's also been great to see these companies working with, and not against, their delivery partners, not only seeking input but actually implementing the ideas that work. Not to mention that it has helped to create new bonds in our communities, as restaurants (old and new), drivers and customers engage and "discover" each other.

Aside from losing these perks of flexibility,

I worry that turning gig work into minimum wage work will only feed into that cycle of eliminating jobs/hours in order to reduce payroll costs, or raising requirements for applicants to get into basic entry-level positions (ie. requiring a Bachelors degree to do simply clerical work). That would affect not only gig workers, but other industries as well.

Please don't ruin a good thing by taking away what has become a helpful, productive and entrepreneurial experience for so many hard working people.

These jobs work BECAUSE of the fact the gig worker is in control, not despite it. Mandating a minimum wage will have negative effects on this industry of those who depend on it to maintain their livelihood.

I appreciate the chance to weigh in on this issue, and hope our leaders will do what is best for us as citizens.