**April 5, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Charlene Obernauer and I am the Executive Director of the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH).

NYCOSH is a non-profit membership organization of workers, unions, community-based organizations, workers’ rights activists, and health and safety professionals. NYCOSH uses training, education, and advocacy to improve health and safety conditions in our workplaces, our communities, and our environment. Founded in 1979 on the principle that workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths are preventable, NYCOSH works to extend and defend every person’s right to a safe and healthy workplace.

NYCOSH has supported the efforts of *deliveristas* to improve their working conditions for many years, advocating for the legalization of e-bikes alongside many worker organizations, and supporting Worker Justice Project and Los Deliveristas Unidos.

This population faces hazards on the job every day as they struggle to complete their work, including:

* Deliveristas are forced to deliver as quickly as possible, racing to speed up their work to meet delivery times. This can have tragic impacts on delivery workers and is the result of companies putting pressure on workers instead of supporting them. Further, their bike equipment can be in varied state of disrepair (and should likely be provided by the employer), which can make cycling more dangerous.
* Deliveristas have high incidents of being struck by cars or other vehicles, which only increases due to their employers placing unreasonable expectations on delivery times. The stress factor of riding in NYC's streets is dire.
* Heat and cold hazards as they deliver food in high heat and low cold throughout the year.
* Deliveristas have been exposed to workplace violence, with some high-profile cases of workers being killed on the job.
* The stress of earning subpar wages on workers is severe, leading to many stress-induced illnesses.

Deliveristas deserve living wages so that they can sustain themselves and their families. Living wages should not be reliant upon the tips of generous customers, but should fall on the companies who profit off of the hard work of these essential workers.

Thank you.