

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Juan Diego Meza Salazar.

2 MR. SALAZAR: Good afternoon. First of all I would  
3 like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is  
4 Juan Diego Meza Salazar. I am a food server and I work at the  
5 Santa Fe non-union casino. I have four kids. I have Juan, he's  
6 four years old; Diego, three years; Jesus Daniel, he's almost  
7 two; and Elizabeth, seven months.

8 Before I came to Las Vegas I used to work in hard  
9 labor. I was doing okay. I was able to support my family. I  
10 wanted something different; something better for my family. One  
11 day my brother called me and he told me about Las Vegas. He  
12 said it was full of opportunities and good jobs and good wages.  
13 So I figured that's what I wanted for my family. I packed my  
14 clothes and I came over. After a week I had my first job at the  
15 Santa Fe. I was very excited. I thought this was the beginning  
16 of my new life. Well, it wasn't. At the Santa Fe I only make  
17 5.25 an hour and the medical plan that the Santa Fe offers is so  
18 expensive that I have my children on Medicaid. My wife and I  
19 don't have any medical plans and there is no pension plan. I  
20 want to take a vacation but with this salary I cannot afford to  
21 do so. I want to buy a house, but my salary's not enough.

22 I stay at the Santa Fe because I feel part of a  
23 family with my co-workers, and I can't afford to be off work  
24 looking for another job. I need a retirement plan. I want a  
25 retirement plan. It scares me to think that I will be working  
26 for the rest of my life to pay bills and rent. I want to leave

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1 something for my kids, to make it easier for them when they  
2 start, something my father wasn't able to do for me. It would  
3 seem easy to do so in a city like Las Vegas, but working at the  
4 Santa Fe makes it hard to do.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

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