

# Anishya Sanders

**Traffic Flagger**

**All Pro Traffic Control in Las Vegas, NV**

**Congressional Press Conference on the Employee Free Choice Act**

**Washington, DC**

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My name is Anishya Sanders and I work as a traffic flagger for All Pro Traffic Control in Las Vegas, Nevada. My job is to help make sure that everyone can move through construction sites safely.

In January, I and a majority of my fellow flaggers signed up to join Laborers Local 702 in order to improve our pay, our benefits and working conditions.

Currently, we make about \$11 an hour, but our hours are irregular and when there is overtime, the company avoids paying it by putting overtime hours in another pay period. When All Pro is sub-contracted to do prevailing wage jobs – which pay about three times more – I believe the company collects for prevailing wages from the general contractor, but doesn't pay us and keeps the money.

Many All Pro employees are forced to live in budget motels on the brink of homelessness because we do not earn enough and because our pay is unpredictable. I myself was evicted and forced on the street when my work hours were cut.

We don't receive health insurance, paid time off or any other benefits at All Pro. When our children are sick, we are often forced to just hope for the best.

Traffic flagging can be a dangerous job. Aside from the danger of working in traffic and around construction equipment, I have been spit on and verbally assaulted by angry motorists. It is not unusual for us to work through the night, until 4 a.m., and then be called back to work a 6 a.m. shift after only an hour or so of rest.

I want to join a union for myself and my co-workers, but also for my children. I have five children, four sons and a 14-year-old daughter. When my hours were cut and I was evicted, I had to make a hard decision about what was best for my children. I was forced from a townhouse, where we all lived together, and on to the streets. I sent my children away to live with relatives.

My daughter now lives with me, but I have a dream that if All Pro workers are honestly rewarded for the work we do, my family will be re-united.

A majority of us went to the owner of All Pro and explained our situations about our families, our worries about safety and how we want to work together to make things better. They laughed at us and said we didn't deserve any better. And then they began the firings and harassment.

I love my job and I want All Pro to be successful. But I believe this is wrong. I believe we should have the chance to improve our lives, that the choice to join a union should be our choice and that our decision should be respected.