

**Statement of Congressman John Tierney
Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on the Bush Administration's
Proposed Changes to Overtime Rules**

December 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to join you today in discussing this very important issue. I would also like to thank the distinguished panelists that are here this morning to shed light on how the Administration's proposed changes to the regulations that govern overtime pay would threaten the livelihood of millions of our nation's working families.

While I believe that changes should be made to the Fair Labor Standards Act so that it more accurately reflects the number of workers eligible for overtime pay, I do not agree with the Administration's approach. I am confident that changes can be made without taking away this hard-earned benefit from approximately eight million workers who depend on it to make ends meet— including almost 200,000 in my home state of Massachusetts.

Those threatened by the changes have not been silent. The Labor Department has received nearly 80,000 letters on these proposed changes – the most mail that the agency has received on any wage-and-hour topic in at least a decade.

I have worked with many of my colleagues here today to oppose these changes, which represent yet another assault on hard-working families by this Administration.

I look forward to hearing the witnesses' testimony, and to continue working with you to do all that we can to protect the rights of working Americans to receive overtime pay.