

Maria Franco**Reno, NV**

My name is Maria Franco, I am a mother, coworker, friend, advocate, and member of AFSCME Local 4041.

I work for the Employment Security Department as an Employment and Training Specialist. I transferred to this department in order to work with leaders who shared my vision of treating all peoples with dignity and respect. In my role, I provide employment and training services for people with barriers to employment including former incarcerations, homelessness and under-employed individuals.

I transferred to ESD a week before COVID 19 and have not started my new role, instead I am supporting Nevadans through the Unemployment Insurance processes and functions. My coworkers and I have worked tirelessly throughout the quarantine serving Nevadans who are faced with financial and emotional hardships. We will continue to serve Nevadans in large numbers once more employment opens up.

I cannot stand by and let my fellow state workers take pay cuts and furloughs when we have been the backbone of the state along, with other front-line workers. We've helped over 400,000 Nevadans find the support they need with UI and PUA. We have been there for our communities and small business owners and now it is time for the Governor and legislature to be here for us.

State workers play an important role in fighting this pandemic and in our state's recovery.

I join thousands of Nevada state employees in demanding a say in any changes to our working conditions and wages.