

6668

Bertram McIntosh, Personal Care Assistant

Bill 6668

Human Services Committee, 3/17/2009

My name is Bert McIntosh, and I'm a CNA-that's a certified nurse assistant, I'm also a Patient Care technician and have experience working as a companion/homemaker. I'm accustomed to working with the consumer who are elderly, or who have alzheimers, parkinsons, dimentia, and all sorts of physical restrictions. I've worked in nursing homes, with home care and home health care agencies, with hospice and have done private duty.

I signed up to be on the PCA registry but have never received a call. This type of work isn't for everyone, but personally I love it. Having helped care for people in nursing homes and in their own private homes I have been able to see the broad spectrum of types of consumers and their needs. To me, the home provides the ability for an individual to have privacy, their own independence, and a higher level of dignity. It's just easier in the home to make adjustments for the individual, to put them in the chair that will work best for them, or the equipment that suits them best, the most individualized safety measures.

I think the PCA quality home care council is long overdue. Many of us that sign up to do work under the PCA waiver or other waivers have so many specialized skills. I know we're only required to have a CPR certificate, but the current registry doesn't effectively connect the consumers with the best fit they need as a PCA. I've seen some people that have been institutionalized when they could have remained at home if they had the right match of a home caregiver. I believe strongly in keeping people in their familiar surrounds.

Home care is growing. As a direct care provider I can't sit back and watch this happen anymore. I want to stand up with the other direct care providers and consumers to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care that they deserve. There are so many people that need qualified PCAs. There are so many qualified PCAs that want to do the work. They just can't find each other. They won't find each other until we put a system in place that allows consumers, families, advocates, and PCAs to work together to bridge the gap.

Please, help ensure that the consumers receive this quality care by passing the quality home care council bill.