

6668

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT QUALITY HOME CARE WORKFORCE  
COUNCIL**

**RAISED BILL NO. 6668**

**MARCH 17, 2009**

My name is Paige Flanagan and I am a Personal Care Assistant. I am submitting testimony in opposition of Raised Bill 6668 both as a person who works for people with severe disabilities as well as someone who advocates for persons with disabilities.

I have been employed as a Personal Care Assistant on and off since 2004. I left for a short while in search of a job with benefits. I was unable to find a job with benefits and gratefully returned to working as a Personal Care Assistant. I have not left since my return, and based on the joy I bring my employer and myself, I don't believe I ever will. Everyday I go to work knowing I make a huge difference in my employer's life and that without me, she would be unable to work, be independent, and live a full productive life. I am dedicated to my employer in anything she may need both personally and professionally. My employer is excellent and successful in her career as well as management and does not need centralization of a system that already works well. Personal Assistants are why people with disabilities are able to live at home, keep employment, and participate in society as a whole. I am employed by the person who knows best exactly what she needs in order to perform these functions. Persons with severe disabilities who live and purse active lifestyles would be unable to find the support

they need by an outside entity controlling a system that already is extremely functional. Unionizing Personal Care Assistants is not in our best interest or the interest of our employers. Wages will increase to cover costs and consumers will have less hours to work with, how is that helpful to either myself or my employer? There's a simple answer, its not! The creation of this bill will make it impossible for my employer to control her own Personal Assistants. I find this absolutely unacceptable. Our current system works, do not try and fix it! Please vote in opposition of Raised Bill 6668 so we may continue using a system that works well for both employers and employees. I want what is best for my employer and me, and this bill is not the answer.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paige Flanagan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paige Flanagan