

6668

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Honorable Chairpersons and members of the Committee:

I am, as an employer of Personal Care Attendants, **Opposed to HB 6668 Sec 2 RE: Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Council. A large number of people with disabilities and Personal Care Attendants do not want this bill!**

HB 6668 is a bad bill because:

- **The various Personal Care Assistance (PCA) programs** will become more costly. These PCA programs **have always been cost-effective on home care versus institutional care**. At a time when our state government has no money, and programs are being cut, **why destroy an existing program that saves money?**
- **With this NEW Council,** we will lose our **power or authority to direct and manage our own care and services.**
- **No one that I know feels they need this Council.** There is a registry now, and there is no proof a new registry will be an improvement.
- **Under the existing PCA programs, we, individually, are employers.** We all have tax ID #s and are responsible for all our employees' withholdings. Under this bill, **who pays for the back-up person?** The Council? Does that put us back to the **state being the employer** as originally proposed in the SEIU 1199 version?
- **Will the Council dictate what services PCA's perform?** Will we have to look to the State for additional monies to get services the Council determines PCA's cannot do? Will this result in more costly program, therefore less hours in total for us? We cannot get straight answers from the bill's originators.

If you approve this bill, you are opening the door to unionizes PCAs. This is why the bill was introduced, and why SEIU 1199 still is pushing it today.

Even though they say we can hire and fire under the bill, can we? In the original draft of this bill, it had a "no strike required" clause. Will that language be put back? What about sick-outs? Will they send a back-up then or I just stay in bed that day?

With the State having financial problems and people being laid off everywhere, does this bill seem appropriate for right now?

Please eliminate Section 2 of HB 6668.

Thank you.