

6668

Dawn Luciano, Personal Care Assistant

Bill 6668

Human Services Committee, 3/17/2009

My name is Dawn Luciano. I am a PCA and a CNA. I really enjoy being a personal care assistant. I work part time with a consumer who is 23 and has cerebral palsy. She can't move her legs and is in a wheelchair. I help her when she goes to conferences or other long distance trips. I help her transfer in and out of her wheelchair, I help her take notes, I get her food and drinks.

I really do love this work. I feel as if I have been called to do this work. I would like to work as a PCA for the rest of my life. However, I have to work two other jobs to make ends meet and that takes me away from being a full time PCA. Under the current system, there is no way I could be a PCA full time. I have 2 older boys and they need health insurance. PCAs don't get any benefits and the pay is so low.

It is important that we have a program in place that supports consumers who are receiving assistance and PCAs and that want to do this work. We need to take care of one another and have passion for our community that needs to be the priority.

Please make this the priority in Connecticut by passing the quality home care council.