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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
THE CREATION OF A PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT QUALITY  
HOME CARE WORKFORCE COUNCIL  
RAISED BILL 6668  
MARCH 17, 2009**

My name is Susan M. Fuhrman, and I work as a Personal Care Assistant for two (2) active professional disabled women. I am writing to voice my total opposition to Raised Bill 6668.

I am convinced the present PCA system is working well for both the disabled person as employer and the care provider as their employee.

This proposal I oppose because higher wages will result in the consumers being forced to cut their hours, NOT good most especially for each disabled person, NOT good for their care providers either.

Previously, I have worked in a group home for the developmentally disabled population. Union 1199 was active there, resulting in over-regulation every which way you turned. It was unpleasant for the workers, also the clients; too many rules for everything.

As far as training: it's impossible to pre-train us in a classroom. We need to be individually on-the-job trained by the disabled person because each person's disability is so very different, and changes occur over time as each person's disability progresses. What could help one could hurt another. I have worked for two (2) disabled women previously, and two (2) now. All four (4) needed different care approaches to meet their daily needs. Even two (2) ladies having the same diagnosed disability require different ways of assisting in their care and comfort. We as Personal Care Assistants need to know our disabled employers' needs and ways well.

Please vote in opposition of Raised Bill 6668 so we may continue using the present system which is working well both for our disabled employers and us, their Personal Care Assistants to bring them the best care possible.

Thank you for your time.