

***Sandra Prince, Personal Care Assistant***  
***Bill 6486***  
***Human Services Committee, March 8, 2011***

My name is Sandra Prince and I've been a home care provider for two years. I love the work. I love caring for people. I really enjoy helping someone. It's the love, I do it out of love. Even when I'm just talking with someone and giving them my time, they so appreciate it. It's good for me.

My client is my God-sister Pat. I used to be a fill-in PCA for Pat, so with different hours every week. Right now Pat's main caregiver is injured so I've been caring for her every day.

When she calls me to come in, I help Pat with everything she needs. I bathe her, change her, fix her meals, clean house, make sure meds are taken, and talk with her. Because I'm a fill-in PCA, I work every Sunday and every holiday. When we had a blizzard I came to help her; I fell and hurt myself on the way but got up and came in. I've come to work through all of this because she needs me and that's my job.

In this job, I get to take good care of my client, but I don't get to take care of myself. PCAs don't get any kind of health insurance. I was in pain and stayed in pain because I didn't have insurance. It finally got so bad that one Sunday morning I went to St Francis and they took care of me right away. They said my gall bladder had gangrene. I had a gall bladder operation. I didn't have insurance but they have a program at St Francis called Saga that I'm hoping will pay for the operation. The bill is \$7846. I had to take a little time off but I didn't get any pay for it. I don't have sick days- not one.

I'd like to get more hours. But also, I would like some appreciation for my commitment. I work holidays for no additional pay at all, and that doesn't seem right. I'd like just something extra to make me feel appreciated. I am thankful for this job and I love it. I give very personal care and I don't mind but I would just like fair pay for it.

I would love to stay with this job. I would like this to be my career. I love this work. But we need to fix this system. We need benefits, we need sick days. We have nobody working for us. We need a Workforce Council so we can have a voice. Massachusetts got it and they're right next door, now we need it.

I hope our elected officials will vote in favor of this home care workforce council bill.