

***Susan Sinclair, Personal Care Assistant, Trumbull  
Bill 6486  
Human Services Committee, March 8, 2011***

My name is Susan Sinclair and I've been a Personal Care Assistant for five years. I got into this line of work when I was providing hospice care for my father. The nurse that came kept telling me I should do this for a living so after my dad passed I became a CNA.

I really enjoy helping people get better. I care for two clients for a total of 35 hours each week. One client is 50 years old and has Multiple Sclerosis. I help him out three days a week with washing, dressing, diapering, and more. My other client is 30 years old and suffered from a stroke. She's learning how to walk and talk again, getting better every week. Working together we've gotten her from a wheelchair to walker to walking. She goes to PT, speech therapy, occupational therapy. I've been with her 8 months on PCA waiver program, for 25 hours a week.

PCAs do important work but we don't make enough money. I feel like I'm spinning my wheels- living paycheck to paycheck and working so hard but not getting anywhere. It's not enough money to get my own insurance. It seems bizarre for someone in healthcare to not have health insurance. The state needs to do something to make sure that both clients and providers receive great health care. Hopefully if the state takes action to fix the system they can make it possible for providers to afford insurance.

Home care offers so much promise to people like my clients, but it doesn't value the people providing the care. We need to create this commission so that home care providers have a voice to improve our jobs, so that we can afford to keep caring for our clients.