Katiria Valladares
Meriden
Consumer
For bill 5433

I only receive 25 hours and I need a lot of transportation to and from Doctors' appointments, shopping and other personal needs. So if my PCA, Lydia, needs a sick day or personal time off, it is a problem for both of us because she wont get paid and I cant get done what I need to get done. I would like for Lydia to have more hours but I cannot afford to pay worker's comp on a $700/month income. Because she is also my friend, we are able to be flexible but a lot of the time Lydia goes beyond her paid hours so I can live the way everybody else does.

With a union, PCAs can come together to solve problems with their jobs. If Lydia has pay issues or needs more, there is only so much I can do. For example, her hourly pay was recently cut from $12.35 to $11.99 because of unemployment costs for the state. There was no warning, and we didn't have a say in that decision.

I support this bill so consumers like myself can fight for more hours of care and so workers can fight for better pay and benefits.