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Testimonial

I have been a PCA for the past three years doing freelance, but I have worked through Allied for the past six months. As a PCA I can say that we are treated as if we were second class workers. We work hard for very little pay. We have no benefits, no sick days, no workman's compensation, and if someone goes on unemployment, our pay is cut. If we are sick too long, we lose our jobs. We work through holidays, without holiday pay. We are told to do procedures, such as dispense medications and give insulin injections, without certification. We are told that we would lose our jobs if we do not do so, though that is a nurse's job.

I worked for a client for four months and was fired for not willing to do volunteer hours. I contacted Allied to see if there were any other clients available and they said they would call me, I'm still waiting, it's been three months with no contact from them since. I have tried looking online for clients and have heard that other PCA's have looked for clients on Craigslist. How can it be so difficult to find clients, when there is such a large demand?

It is not enough to make a living when there is a 25 hour cap per client which guarantees no benefits. A person could work for three clients, work 75 hours a week, and still receive no benefits. All the people that I have spoken to while lobbying, had no idea what PCA work entails. Well, let me tell you what I had to do. I had a client who was beridden and I had to do everything for her. Bathe her, brush her teeth, clean and empty her catheter, dispose of her bowel movements, transfer her from her bed to her motorized chair with a hooyer lift that was greatly outdated. I also had to prepare her meals, do dishes, clean the counters, vacuum and mop, take care of her cat and litter box, do her laundry, run errands and help her with any paperwork. I also had to pack her belongings when she was moving because she did not want to spend the money for movers to do it. Accompany her to appointments and do whatever she requested.

The reason why I am here today, speaking in front of all of you, is to show what injustice has been allowed to happen to these workers and to show you the dire need of us having a union so that we may have a voice. I ask of you to please recognize that this bill needs to be signed, this bill needs to be passed. Thank you for hearing me out and I hope that this legislative group makes the right decision, because no American citizen should be without a voice.