

Cindy Cardoza

Waterbury

PCA

For collective bargaining for home care workers

I'm Cindy Cardoza and I've been a home care worker for three years for a autistic man. I've known him his whole life and I used to babysit him when he was a kid. He's really smart, but basic life skills are a challenge for him. His family needs me to help him bathe, running errands, I make sure he goes out for recreational activities, shopping and meal preparation and I help him get to his job. He works in a kitchen with other people with developmental disabilities and he loves it. It gets him out in the world and gives him the chance to contribute to our community.

If I wasn't able to be with him, he would end up in an institution because his family can't care for him on their own. He is like family to me and I love being with him.

But here's the problem. I don't have any health insurance. I have to pay out of pocket for all my medical care and medicine. I have diabetes and pay a lot of money every month for my insulin. I don't go to the doctor because I can't afford it. Not being able to go to the doctor almost cost me my life and I have this scar to prove it. This can't go on. The work we do matters and we should be able to take care of our consumers and ourselves.

Please vote for collective bargaining rights for home care workers. We are long overdue for some changes.