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Home Care Worker
In favor of 5433

I've been a homecare worker for 39 years and if I get sick or have to go to the c=doctor, I just don't get paid. I just had to take off two weeks without pay to recover from carpel tunnel surgery.

A lot of consumers like that I have a lot of experience, but not too long ago I had to leave one of my consumers because we had a big problem with the pay. He was having surgery and so had to go to a lot of doctors appointments which ate up his budget, but he didn't know it. When he sat down to figure out how much money he had in his budget there wasn't enough there to pay me for the hours I had already worked. Suddenly, he had to start cutting my hours. This was bad for both of us. Just because he didn't have the money to pay me, didn't mean he didn't still need the hours of care. He just had to do without. I had been with him for a year and he didn't want me to leave. It broke my heart, but I had to quit. I worked for a week for free so he had time to try to find someone else. And working for free isn't all that unusual. I work holidays and extra hours without being paid. I don't think that's fair.

If I had a contract, I would know how many hours I would get paid for and would know who to talk to if I had a problem. But mostly, I want to be able to speak up for my consumer. I don't want consumers to have to choose between paying for a ride to the doctor or getting the home care they need.