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For Bill 5433 collective bargaining for home care workers

I think something that a lot of people don't realize is that when your consumer goes to the hospital, you stop getting paid. That doesn't mean they don't need us and won't need us when they get back from the hospital, but then I'm not getting paid and there is no way to plan for it or find other consumers who may need some temporary work I can do until my regular consumer is back home. There needs to be a way to find more consumers in a timely manner. I'm not getting paid if I don't work, I can't provide for my family – this is what I do for a living.

I bet a lot of people also don't know that we work with our consumers on holidays, even though we don't get paid for it. A lot of times we work extra too. If one of my consumers only has 25 hours in their budget I only get paid for that time even though a lot of times I work extra hours because they need me.

Being able to have a public binding contract would mean that we all would know what is expected of us and would take a lot of the uncertainty out of this work. I want us to all come together and write a contract together so all of us can get what we need. I would also like the opportunity to get more training so I can get better at my job. That's going to help everyone too.

I want this bill to pass because I think it sets everything in order to make the program better for workers and consumers. I want you to vote to respect the work that PCA's do, because right now, the way things are, I don't feel very respected.