

I have been a Home Care Worker for 6 years in Waterbury, CT. I have clients from all walks of life. As a home care worker, I am responsible for taking care of my client's personal needs and the needs of their homes.

One year and a half ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. When I was diagnosed, I had a lump under my armpit. I thought it was a callus from lifting a very heavy client every day. The client's weight put a lot of strain on my shoulder and my back. I had no other choice but to lift my client. I didn't have a back up plan if I got hurt on the job, but I needed the money. So, I worked while ignoring my discomfort.

I am also a domestic worker for my client's home: mopping, sweeping, snow shoveling, cooking, and staying longer than I should without getting paid over time. I know that if I go the extra mile I will always have a job.

Being a domestic worker our work goes unseen and many times we are too scared to speak up for our own personal safety and our health. What would happen if I slipped while I was mopping the floor?

I am happy to say that I was able to beat my cancer. I hope that one day, homecare workers and domestic workers will have the same rights as any other worker and that we are recognized for the hard work that we do.

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