

Testimony of Yvonne Foster, Certified Nursing Assistant

Member, New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199

Before the Human Services Committee, Thursday, February 20, 2014

Opposing: HB 5052

Supporting: HB 5051 and HB

Hello, my name is Yvonne Foster and I live in . I am a member of District 1199 and work as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Windsor Health and Rehab Center, a nursing home in Windsor, CT.

I am testifying today on several important bills that will have a real impact on me and the wonderful residents I take care of at my nursing home.

First, I'd like to say that I am against the changes to how nursing homes get funding from the State that are proposed in House Bill 5052. Those changes would make it harder than it already is to give good care to my residents because nursing homes that want to offer better staffing levels or better jobs would not be able to get those costs back when the state reviews their cost reports. When the State squeezes nursing home operators, those operators turn around and squeeze me and my co-workers. Our hours get cut or we get laid off and the bottom line is fewer people to do more work and less care for the elderly who depend on us. Please don't let that happen.

Second, it's very important that the big corporations that own and operate most of Connecticut nursing homes should disclose more financial information than they do now. My nursing home is part of the Kindred chain, one of the bigger health care corporations in the country. Kindred has 102 nursing homes, with five in Connecticut. Almost all of it's all public money – that means that some of my tax dollars are going to companies c