

Katherine Jones-Newton
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March 12, 2015

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Katherine Jones-Newton. I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 1044 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW WAGE EMPLOYERS."

In 2012 I was in a bad car accident and I broke my hip. Since then my mobility has been limited and it has been thanks to the help of home care workers that I have been able to stay in my home and live as much as a normal life as I can have.

Being able to receive home care services in my house has had a great impact on my quality of life. After being in a facility for 6 months, I know the difference that it makes to be able to be in my home where I feel secure, comfortable and happy.

My home care workers help me in every part of my life; they help me move, take a shower, make sure I take my medication, get my groceries, clean my house and a million other small things that I might need throughout the day. They also become my friends and they support me in my times of need and I do the same.

I have two homecare providers and even after taking on two or more jobs, they struggle to make ends meet. They have to live, but by the time they pay their bills they still can't make ends meet due to the low rate of pay. Both qualify for rental assistance because the wages are too low to afford a place on their own. Plus, working two or more jobs is wear and tear on their lives.

If this bill were passed, it would help make sure that more workers make a fair wage AND it would increase funding for healthcare and childcare programs. If more money came in to the healthcare system because of this bill, maybe subsidies would be increased so that patients like me could pay my workers a better wage and they wouldn't have to rely on public assistance.

As a person who receives home care services, I know the impact that they can have on people's lives. Home Care workers help me have a good life while I stay in my home feeling secure, comfortable and happy. Now it's time to increase funding and raise wages so that my home care workers can take care of their own homes and families, too.

Thank you,

Katherine Jones-Newton