

RE: House Bills 5586 and 5812, and Senate Bill 231

February 5, 2015

My name is Gloria Duquette and I live in Hartford. I have been a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for 9 years and I am a member of District 1199/SEIU Healthcare.

I am currently working three different jobs. For 40 hours per week, I'm a CNA at Kimberly Hall South in Windsor; for 32 hours per week, I'm a CNA at Saint Mary's Home in West Hartford; and for approximately 14 hours per week, I am a home care aide with Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford. In addition, intermittently since 2008, I have been a part-time student. And finally, I am a proud mother and grandmother.

Although I spend most of my time every week working in health care, each of my three jobs pays me less than \$15 an hour. Sometimes, no matter how hard I work – no matter how tired I feel – I still struggle to make ends meet.

But I love working because I love my residents. I frequently work as a CNA in the rehab unit, and I get the opportunity to meet different, interesting, loving people every day. They are my family, and the nursing home is our home. When I'm not at work, my residents miss me and I miss them.

The nursing home residents to whom I provide care are often hardworking people who dedicated their lives to their families and their communities. We owe it to them to provide an environment in which they can live and grow as happily as possible.

I'm here today to encourage you to increase funding for nursing homes in our state. I believe that greater public investment will improve the quality of life for patients as well as the quality of the life for the caregivers, like me, who serve them.

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