

Gwen Carter  
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March 5, 2015

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Gwen Carter and I am from Hartford. Today I am speaking in support of House Bill # 6878, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS.

I have been working in the health care field for 20 years. I come from a family of health care workers and I understand the difference that we have on peoples' lives. As homecare workers, our goal is to provide our consumer the opportunity to live a good life. I am able to help my consumers to stay in their homes and not be put in facilities if they do not want to be.

However, I feel that we should also have the opportunity to have a good life and be secure in taking care of our own families, too.

Sadly, as it stands, we are not able to do so.

As a homecare worker, I have been in situations where I know that I am putting my health in jeopardy. One day I was at work and I had to transport my consumer to an appointment. She has a vehicle that is equipped with an electric ramp. On this day it was not working, so I had to do it manually. In doing this, the ramp jumped out of my hands and fell on my ankle. Boy, did it hurt! My ankle swelled up so much. When I got home I soaked it and put it up on pillows so the swelling would go down by the time for work in the morning. And it did...however, by the time I got off work that next day, it had swelled up all over again. This went on for weeks and I was unable to give quality care because my ankle would be very swollen at the end of the day and that would limit my mobility.

If I had had workers compensation, I would have been able to see a doctor and take the time off to heal. Unfortunately, this was not the case and to this day, I still have problems with my ankle when standing for long periods at a time.

This is just one of many stories. This is why we need your support, to help the homecare work force. We deserve to have workers compensation to better our lives, and so that we can continue to give quality care to our consumers

Thank you for your attention,

Gwen Carter