

Besty Wingate * 108 Osborn Rd * Naugatuck, CT 06770

March 5, 2015

Dear members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Betsy Wingate and I am from Naugatuck. I am speaking in support of:

- *House Bill # 6878, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS*
- *House Bill #6791, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS WAGES AT LARGE CORPORATIONS.*

I am a single mother of six, a grandmother of 16, great grandmother of two and a lifelong caregiver. I started out caring for my uncle many years ago and I have also taken care of my granddaughter, who was born 17 years ago with sickle cell anemia, and my grandson, who was born nine years ago with congestive heart failure.

As a home care worker I understand the difference we can have on people's lives. When we are in people's homes, we help them live with dignity, giving them as much of a normal life as they can have.

As a home worker, I live in fear of not having workers' compensation. Every time we move a 75-pound Hoyer lift or manually move a consumer we know that any wrong move would send us to the hospital. With no workers' compensation if I got hurt I would be left with no option but to rely on government assistance. More importantly, because we don't have workers' compensation, if we get injured our consumers lose the support system they need to live their lives and because we won't get the support we need to get back to work, it will take longer for us to come back to our consumers.

I ask this committee to support providing workers' compensation to home care workers. We deserve to feel safe in our jobs and be protected if we are injured while helping others have the best care possible in their homes.

I am also here today to support the raising of wages to \$15 an hour in large corporations. I know the importance of being paid fair wages. Back in 2008 I suffered a heart attack. At that time I was not eligible for Medicaid health insurance because I was making \$12 dollars an hour. I struggled to pay for my necessary medication, rent, car insurance, and pay for my youngest son's college tuition.

\$15 an hour would help people afford health insurance and support their families. \$15 an hour would mean that people don't have to work 3 or 4 jobs to try to make ends meet.

I support the raising of wages to \$15 an hour in large corporations. These workers deserve to be fairly compensated in a manner that lets them have a good life without having to rely on government assistance. Thank you for your consideration.