

Labor & Public Employees Committee - Public Hearing  
February 25, 2016

Henrietta Bishop  
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My name is Henrietta Bishop and I live in Waterbury, CT. I have been a home care provider since 2007. I urge you to please support Senate Bill #210, *AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS.*

I care for my consumer, who is paralyzed from waist down and wheelchair-bound, by helping him to do everyday tasks like bathing, toileting, cleaning his house, cooking, wound care, mobility, and lifting. He has issues with incontinence due to his paralysis, and I help him by changing his diapers and cleaning soiled bedding, which requires that I physically move him around in order to put clean sheets on the bed..

On average, I have to change my consumer 4-6 times every day, more often when he is experiencing frequent kidney infections. The movements I need to perform in order to provide quality care for him have caused damage to my own knees. Repeated twisting, turning, and lifting a grown man has resulted in damaged cartilage in both of my knees as well as back injuries.

My doctor has recommended partial knee replacement surgeries but I cannot afford to miss work with no source of income and my consumer needs me there. I live with constant agonizing pain.

If I had had Worker's Compensation Insurance since I became a PCA, I might not have been looking at having surgeries -- preventative care may have helped me avoid the serious damage I have today. Not having Worker's Compensation means I continue to work on damaged knees.

Can I count on you to support hard-working home care workers and provide workers compensation so we can take better care of ourselves and our consumers?

Thank You,  
Henrietta Bishop