

Katherine Jones-Newton  
42 Walnut St, New Haven CT 06511

February 11, 2016

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Katherine Jones-Newton. I live in New Haven and am a consumer of state-funded homecare services. **I am here to speak on behalf of my Personal Care Attendants, who need the State to fund workers' compensation insurance in order to continue to provide the best possible care for me.**

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 your 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.

Home care workers deserve to feel as safe as they make me feel when they work in my home. But DSS doesn't provide a workers compensation policy for all consumers and home care workers, and I don't have extra money to buy an individual policy. This means that workers have no protections if they suffer an accident in my home and I lose a good worker with no way of knowing if he or she will be able to pay for the care they need. It also means that I could get sued by a hospital or bill collectors if someone did get hurt while taking care of me.

The lack of workers' compensation also means that home care workers can't stay with me for more than 25.75 hours per week. This lack of hours means that I am forced to have 3 or 4 people in my home every week. I want to feel comfortable in my home and sometimes that is difficult when I have people coming in and out of my home. More importantly, I sometimes lose my best home care workers because I can't provide them with the hours they deserve.

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. **This is why I am asking this committee to help secure funds in the final budget that will provide Home Care workers with the workers' compensation protections they need to feel safe and secure in our homes.**

Thank you,

Katherine Jones-Newton