



***In SUPPORT of HB 5426: AN ACT CONCERNING LIENS FOR UNPAID WAGES AND A REQUIREMENT THAT FISCAL INTERMEDIARIES MEET EMPLOYER TIMELY PAY OBLIGATIONS***

Good Evening Senator Kasser, Representative Lopes and members of the Committee, my name is Anthony Ligon and I'm a homecare provider living in New Haven. I'm here today to testify in support of HB 5426 because it will protect workers like me and the consumer I care for.

I've been a caregiver all my life, even before I got paid for it. This is something I do that comes from the heart; it's a passion for me. My great grandmother had Alzheimer's and my cousin has down syndrome, and I've always helped care for them. I became a homecare worker in 2013. My patient has a traumatic brain injury. He came home 5 years ago in a vegetative state, but thanks to the 24-hour-care of homecare workers like me, he has made a lot of progress. I do overnight care for him and he needs help with walking and balance even to go to and from the bathroom. He is nonverbal and we are working with him on relearning to speak – but without caregivers like me, he would not be able to progress in life, and his family members wouldn't be able to carry on with their lives and hold jobs because they would have to care for him around the clock.

I feel honored to be a person that takes care of other individuals, but I do not feel honored or respected when I'm not paid on time. I feel a sense of fulfillment when I go to serve others, but that favor is not repaid to me if I can't rely on my paycheck.

For as long as I've gotten paid by Allied, I've had periodic problems getting paid on time or getting only a partial check. In the past, I used to call up after submitting my timesheets and I could convince them to look for and confirm receipt of my timesheets. But a couple of years ago, they began refusing to do that, so now when you submit your timesheets you just have to cross your fingers and wait until Friday to hope you get paid. I would say since that change in their policy, there have been at least 10 times when I woke up Friday to see either no deposit or a paycheck for only one week, and Allied said they'd never got my timesheets despite them being faxed, sometimes to multiple numbers.

Sometimes not getting paid on time left me in debt; once I had to move out of my apartment. Sometimes not being paid when I was expecting it mean I couldn't eat healthily or put gas in my car to go to work. As a young person trying to establish myself in the world, not being able to rely on my paycheck at times robbed me of the stability I needed. Please pass HB 5426 so that workers like me will have the stability we need to care for our consumers without sacrificing our own dignity. Thank you for your time.