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United for Quality Care

March 11, 2021
Christina Briggs
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Before the Labor Committee

In Support of SB 1002: AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING MATTERS

and In Support of HB 6595: AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STAFFING ISSUES

and In Support of HB 6476: AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Good Morning Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Committee. My name is Christina Briggs. I am an Assistant Program Coordinator at Journey Found and I am here today to support Senate Bill 1002, House Bill 6595 and HB 6476.

I love my job because I love making a difference in my individuals' lives on a daily basis. I love that I can help them live as close to normal lives as possible. I provide direct care, which looks like cooking, cleaning, passing meds, control of finances, shopping, and lastly, I'm in charge of their recreation activities. Because of COVID, we aren't allowed to go on trips with our individuals anymore, so we have to get more creative at home and try our best to find activities for them to do.

During COVID, my group home ended up with a positive client and we had very little PPE. Our staff ended up having to quarantine for Christmas, and in order to make sure our families and individuals were safe, we had to move into the facility for 5 days. Our staff put our lives at risk, and would've benefitted greatly from hero pay.

In addition, my husband lost his job due to COVID, and we are now down to one income. There are countless families around the state who are frontline essential workers experiencing crisis like mine. Hazard pay and access to sick leave that would not take away from our own is needed. Passing this bill would be my road to recovery. Please pass Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 6595. Thank you.