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United for Quality Care

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Candice Carlson, DDS
District 1199NE
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

Good Morning Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Committee. My name is Candice Carlson and I have been employed by DDS as a caseworker in the Individual Home Supports Program for over 27 years. I am testifying and advocating today on behalf of thousands of “Hero’s” like me state wide who have selflessly and extraordinarily risen to needs of our most vulnerable citizens statewide during the COVID Pandemic. Our “Hero’s” have sacrificed their safety, their families and their futures and I am here today to ask that you recognize our sacrifices and our extraordinary work by compensating us with the “Hero pay” that we are so deserving of. Please pass Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 6595.

I speak of the employees who have continuously showed up to work in some of the most unsafe, absolutely unimaginable environments and circumstances that the average person never has to see because we are the “Hero’s that do the work....

I speak of the employees who have been forced to work in COVID CRISIS environments consistently without proper PPE. Employees that have been forced to work in environments that are severely understaffed, mandated everyday - some up to 24 hours straight – who cannot even go home because the severity of the environment that they are working in would put their families at risk.

I speak on behalf of our “Hero’s” who have gotten sick because of the lack of PPE, PPE protocols & gross mismanagement statewide.

I speak for those who have unknowingly transmitted this virus to their families and I speak for those employees who have made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives!

I speak on behalf of employees have been consistently treated as though they are expendable & instead of being valued, respected & treated like heroes they have consistently been treated like zero’s throughout this entire pandemic. The magnitude of COVID is immeasurable yet essential and frontline employees show up every single day. Please pass Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 6595. Thank you for all that you do and thank you for your time.