



**SEIUHealthcare**  
United for Quality Care

March 17, 2021  
Sharia Ann Ashmeade, CNA  
Regal Care of New Haven  
SEIU District 1199 New England  
Before the Public Health Committee

*In Support of SB 1030 AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES  
with changes.*

Good afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Sharia Ann Ashmeade and I am a CNA at Regal Care of New Haven. I have worked as a healthcare worker at Regal Care for seven years. I love my job because I get the opportunity to care for my residents. It is a passion for me to help those in need. I am here today to ask that you pass Senate Bill 1030 with some changes because it will bring much needed improvements to the Nursing Home industry so that residents can receive proper care.

Even though I love my job, what frustrates me is that we work in an environment where risking our lives to do something we love is often unappreciated. Most often we are looked at as if we are the problem and the work that we do as CNA's is overlooked and underappreciated. With proper staffing we will be able to spend more time caring for each resident according to their need. It will help to offer our resident with better quality of life.

One area that this bill gets wrong is the twelve hour shift section. Twelve hour shifts will not solve our staffing problems. If anything it will make them worse. We are regularly mandated to work and are burnt out because we are doing double jobs due to understaffing. Changing our shifts to twelve hours will demoralize the workforce even more, and we are already low.

Another area I would change is the penalties for not giving access to PPE to workers. I have worked on a COVID 19 unit and we were treated like we were outcasts. We had to take home our paper gowns, wash them in disinfectant water and hang them up to dry so we could take them back the next day for some form of protection. We wore our N95s for ten days or more till some of our faces were breaking out. There was no education so we were also spraying those masks with chemicals and inhaling those chemicals thinking we were disinfecting the masks. We didn't have enough gloves at times so we were moving from one resident to the other with the same gloves just to make sure care was given and we were protected, while management hoarded the supplies jeopardize the residents and staff. This kind of behavior did not warrant any penalties or fines from DPH, and this bill doesn't change any of that. We need strong penalties so that when management withholds employee access there are repercussions. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your time.