



SEIUHealthcare
United for Quality Care

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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 Gladis Castro, I live in Danbury, CT, and I have worked as a CNA at the Western Rehabilitation Center for 12 years. I come before you to testify in support of SB 1030 with changes.

I love the work I do as a CNA. It is a wonderful feeling to know the work I do uplifts my residents lives. They rely on my for just about everything, and so the work I do is essential for their survival.

This work is so important, which is why I get so frustrated when we are understaffed. Without sufficient staffing, our residents don't get the care they deserve. Our staff are forced to rush through their tasks to try and get everything done during their shift. We don't have the time to give our residents the attention they need. Instead we must skip our own breaks to ensure everything gets done. This is unacceptable and a direct result of under staffing.

Another major issue with nursing homes is the lack of PPE. At the height of the pandemic, coming to work was scary. We didn't know if today was going to be the day we bring COVID home with us from work. This fear was amplified because we didn't have enough PPE. My facility wasn't ready, and ended up making us reuse PPE. We had to reuse masks that were only meant to be worn once. This is insulting and dangerous.

To make matters worse, my facility did not offer effective infection control education and training. Instead we were left to learn on our own. When training was offered it was often only offered in one language and was lack luster in its efficiency.

I am supporting SB 1030 because it will address these issues and more. This bill would create staffing standards so my coworkers and I don't have to be worked to the bone. With that said I disagree with making nursing home shifts 12 hours, they should remain 8 as they are now. Furthermore, this bill would force nursing homes to keep a 3 month stockpile of PPE on hand at all times. This is good, although a 6 month stockpile would be better. Finally this bill would mandate that nursing homes offer infection control education and training in a bilingual way. IN doing so we can better guarantee our staff are ready for the net pandemic.

SB 1030 is a much needed bill, and will improve the nursing home industry for its workers and residents. Please pass SB 1030.

Thank you for your time.