



SEIUHealthcare
United for Quality Care

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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 Dorrett Edisio, I live in Waterbury, CT, and have worked as a CNA at the Glen Hill nursing home for seven years. I come before you today in support of SB 1030.

I really love my job as a CNA, because I love caring for the residents. I enjoy talking with them, feeding them, and generally taking care of their every need. I see and believe that if we live long enough we will see our second childhood. The gift of care that my coworkers and I give our residents is done out of love. When care is driven by money and not love, the nurses and CNAs are treated like fools and the residents suffer.

One way that this manifests is low staffing. To save money, nursing homes will staff their units at the bare minimum. When this happens, CNAs like me must rush around trying to get all our tasks done within our shift. This leaves us no time to converse with residents or to provide them with the social interaction they thrive on. We also have no time for ourselves. My coworkers and I often skip our breaks to get everything done. This is stressful and ultimately hurts the care we can provide.

Another issue we deal with in my home is poor infection control training. We need better education on this topic so we can ensure we're providing care in a way that is safe for ourselves and our residents. This training should also be offered in other languages as much of our staff are bilingual.

Working during the pandemic has been incredibly stressful. This is only worsened when we do not have enough PPE. We were often forced to wear the same paper mask for an entire week. These masks were meant to be worn once. That is disgusting and dangerous. We felt like fools marching to our deaths. But we care about our residents so we continued to work.

I strongly support SB 1030 because it seeks to address these issues. This bill would increase staffing ratios, which is desperately needed. This will make giving care easier and less stressful. This bill would also create training standards, that ensure multilingual staff receive the same training as English speaking staff. This is critically important in ensuring quality care is provided universally. Finally this bill would require nursing homes have a three month stockpile on hand at all times. This is a good first step, but we could strengthen it by making it a six month stockpile.

One of my only concerns with this bill is a lack of penalties or other enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance. We know nursing homes are willing to cut corners to save money. Why then would they follow these costly new rules if there is no penalty? They won't.

With the changes mentioned above this bill could really improve the nursing home field. Please pass SB 1030 with changes.

Thank you for your time.