



**SEIUHealthcare**  
United for Quality Care

March 17, 2021  
Khaliyah Jenkins, CNA  
Orange Healthcare  
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 Khaliyah Jenkins. I am a CNA at Orange Healthcare, and I've worked here since 2012. I chose to dedicate my life to the elderly because they are often the forgotten ones. No one chooses to get sick nor do they choose to be unable to no longer have the ability to care for themselves. I my job because I love seeing my residents' smile. But being short staffed takes away from the time I have for them. I am here today because Senate Bill 1030 looks to change the staffing ratios and allow us to give better patient care.

As a CNA, I help with activities of daily living like washing, dressing, eating, and more. These activities are important because residents need assistance to do things they are unable to do themselves. Better staffing levels would mean there would be more hands on deck to give residents the time they deserve with these activities. Think about this. How long does it take for you to get out of bed, use the toilet, shower, get dressed, brush your teeth, eat breakfast? An hour? Now imagine you can't do any of that on your own and two (2) people need to help you, but they have less than ten (10) minutes to provide all of that care. That isn't fair, and it doesn't make you feel good I'm sure.

Additional funding and better ratios would improve services because we would be able to hire more people to have better staffing so residents will have the best quality of care. Better staffing levels would mean there would be more hands on deck to give residents the time they deserve.

It also means that workers would not feel overworked and there would be less injuries and call outs. Current staff are burnt out and no one is choosing nursing home careers anymore, mainly because of staffing issues. Assignments are too heavy, the patients are sicker and our risk of injury is at an all-time high.

This bill would lower staffing ratios and allow staff to receive the support we need. Please pass Senate Bill 1030. Thank you for your time.