



**SEIUHealthcare.**  
United for Quality Care

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Gabriela Mendoza, LPN  
St. John Paul II Center  
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 Gabriela Mendoza, I live in Danbury, CT, and I work as an LPN at the St. John Paul II Center in Danbury, CT. I come before you in support of SB 1030 with changes.

I love my job because I love to take care of my residents. It is so rewarding to know that my hard work is having a positive impact on their lives. With that said, it is frustrating when there is not enough staff to work the shifts, not enough PPE for me and my coworkers, and insufficient training for the staff.

As a LPN I provided medical care, taking patients history, maintaining documentation, and assist them with their daily routine. These services are important because we care about the well-being of our resident, and the care we provide them is critical to their survival. We help them with showering, eating, toileting assistance and socialization.

When we are short staffed we cannot give the proper attention to our residents. We often will have 20 or more residents for one CAN. That is a lot to care to provide in only 8 hrs. LPNs and CNAs end up frantically running around trying to accomplish all our responsibilities. It is very stressful and doesn't result in the best care for residents.

On top of short staffing, we are constantly short on PPE or do not have the right type of PPE. This is unacceptable, especially in a pandemic. Nursing home staff need the appropriate amount of PPE, instead we are asked to reuse PPE that is meant to be used once. In other instances PPE is hidden from us or locked away. As if we are thieves. This is insulting as well as dangerous to staff and residents.

Finally, we do not receive adequate training as a staff. The training we received for infection control education was minimal and only offered in English. This is ridiculous! We are a diverse, multi-lingual staff and must be offered training in a multitude of languages. This will allow us to better serve our residents.

I am supporting SB 1030 with changes, because it seeks to address these issues. This bill would create staffing standards to reduce the stress and strain felt by staff. Although as an LPN, I believe the hour requirements in this bill for LPNs should be increased and the hours for RNs should be reduced. This bill would require that nursing homes have a 3 month stockpile of PPE at all times, which is good but could be improved by making this 6 months. Finally, this bill would create training standards that would allow our multi-lingual staff to be properly trained.

These are all much needed improvements to the nursing home field. They will make our lives as caregivers easier and improve the care we are able to give our residents. Please pass SB 1030.

Thank you for your time.