



**SEIUHealthcare**  
United for Quality Care

March 17, 2021  
Nancy Minarsky, CNA  
Davis Place  
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 Nancy Minarsky, I live in Moosup, CT, and have worked as a CNA at the Davis Place nursing home in Danielson for 31 years. I come before you today in support of SB 1030 with changes.

I love my job because I have always wanted to work in healthcare. It is incredibly fulfilling providing care for others. I love seeing my effort make a positive impact on my resident's lives, who after all these years are like family to me.

With that said, I find much frustration in my field. There is just not enough staffing for the number of residents we have, specifically our high acuity residents. It's frustrating and disturbing that we can barely meet their normal daily needs. As caregivers we are responsible for feeding residents, giving bed baths or showers, providing incontinent care, and more, all while keeping an eye on residents with higher risks for falls. Never mind our documentation, which takes time and focus. The care we provide residents is essential to their survival.

Working with low staffing not only makes it hard to give this essential care, but also has a negative impact on staff moral and efficiency. Being forced to work overtime simply to ensure every shift is staffed leaves caregivers stretched thin and burnt out. When you're at the end of your rope you can't put your best foot forward, which is what our residents deserve. Staffing is a quality of care issue. If we want to take good care of our residents, the first thing we need is improved staffing.

With better staffing the level of stress would definitely ease. We would actually meet all our residents' essential needs, such as keeping them nourish, hydrated, and clean from incontinence. We would also have the time to keep a better eye on our residents with a high risk for falls. This would reduce the number of injuries residents have from falls, ultimately improving their quality of life.

Another area in which nursing homes could improve would be our PPE supply. During the pandemic we were forced to reuse PPE or go without. All because management was able to skate by without having an adequate stockpile of PPE. With an ample supply of quality PPE, nursing homes would be able to ensure their staff are safe when providing lifesaving and maintaining care.

I support SB 1030 because it seeks to address these issues. This bill would improve staffing standards for nursing homes, which would reduce staff burn out while improving resident care. This bill would also require homes to have a 3 month stockpile of PPE at all times. This is good, but I would like to see it be a 6 month stockpile of PPE. Another improvement I would make to this bill would be to include some penalty when homes don't follow these new rules. Improved standards will only make a difference if there are penalties for not following them.

With these slight changes SB 1030 would be a great step towards fixing the existing issues in nursing homes. This would mean the world for our residents, who's quality of care is the most important thing. Please pass SB 1030 with the mentioned changes.

Thank you for your time.