

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 Janet Sewell and I am a CNA at Arden House in Hamden. In October of this year, I will have worked at Arden House for 38 years. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 1030 with small changes.

I always wanted to become a nurse. I love helping people and making them feel better about themselves. As a CNA, I provide activities of daily living – which really involves a little bit of everything. Without me, residents wouldn't keep going. And they keep me motivated too! Without me most wouldn't be able to eat or dress on their own. Without me, they would feel like no one cares. We become like family.

Passing this bill would bring better staffing levels to our nursing homes, and better staffing levels would allow me more time with my residents. It would allow me to take more time with them, to better judge their issues, their wants, and needs. It would also give me peace of mind not to rush. When I first started as a CNA, we had time to spend with our residents. We could talk to them, help them do their hair, really spend quality time with them. Things have changed so much. These days, I worry about my residents and I feel so overwhelmed every day. With better staffing level, we could hire more staff and make the job more rewarding for new hires. Even our residents feel the staffing shortage. With better staffing ratios, like the ones in this bill, they would have more time with us. They wouldn't feel as rushed and they would feel like we care about them.

The language in this bill that would mandate that written infection control procedures have to be available in both English and Spanish. This is so important because being able to understand English is hard for many people where English is a second language. We all need to understand what to do when and where and this would help my friends who speak and understand primarily Spanish or another language.

Finally, I wanted to address the PPE section of this bill. I am very glad that this bill makes Nursing Homes create stockpiles of PPE for three months. This is a good start, but it is not enough. When the pandemic started last year, we went at least six months without regular proper PPE, and with supply chain problems. The amount of time that Nursing Homes have to keep stockpiles should be extended to six months, and there should be penalties incurred if they do not make PPE accessible to workers. In order to keep facilities on top of things, we need fines to make sure the facilities are following the rules. Laws are just words if there are no repercussions for not following them.

This bill would be a good start to addressing staffing levels, PPE, infection control planning and several other things that really would start to make changes in the Nursing Home industry. Please pass Senate Bill 1030. Thank you for your time.