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United for Quality Care

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Teodora Taveras, CNA  
ST John Paul  
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 Teodora Taveras, I live in Danbury, CT, and I have worked as a CNA at the St John Paul nursing home for six years. I come before you to urge you to pass SB 1030 with changes.

I love the work I do as a CNA because I find it rewarding to care for the elderly. I feel like I am taking care of my own parents. Everyone deserves to live their later years comfortably and I am proud to give that comfort to my residents.

With that said I am frustrated by the constant battle we have over staffing. As a staff we are constantly forced to work short. This results in high stress levels amongst the staff and a negative impact on the quality of care we can provide. We literally don't have the time to give good care; we must rush from one task to the next. It is sad and unacceptable.

In addition to poor staffing we almost never have adequate PPE. At the height of the pandemic this created a very stressful environment. Staff were often forced to reuse PPE, even though the PPE was designed to be single use. This put the staff and the residents at an unnecessary level of risk. However, this is what happens when you put profit before people. Nursing home workers and residents deserve better.

The trainings offered to staff could also be improved. The infection control education and training we received was not sufficient. Not only did it fail to prepare us, but it was not offered in enough languages to be utilized by all our staff. We are a diverse staff caring for a diverse population. Our training should reflect that.

I support SB 1030 because it would address these issues and more. The bill would improve staffing requirements, which will make it easier for staff to provide their residents with quality care. This bill would also require homes to keep a 3 month stockpile of PPE. This is good, but could be improved by increasing the requirement to 6 months. Finally this bill would ensure that infection control trainings are offered in multiple languages to ensure the entire staff receives the same training. This would better equip us to handle COVID and pandemics of the future.

Please pass SB 1030 with changes. Thank you for your time.