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Totlyn Wyndham-Riley, CNA
60 West Nursing Home
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 Totlyn Wyndham-Riley and I am a CNA at 60 West Nursing Home in Rocky Hill. I have worked here for a little less than ten years, since the day they opened, but I have been a CNA since 1995. In addition, I have resided in Hartford for 32 years, and I have served and still serve on a few committees, like I am a school Board member for the Hartford SDA School. I also like to spend my time working with the Food share and soup kitchen department at my Church and I am a Youth Leader and a Medical Cadet.

I love my job because I love to put a smile on the resident's face. We are who they see everyday, we are their 'family' away from family. I provide activities of daily living (ADL) care & hour of sleep (HS) care for the residents.

I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 1030 with a few changes. Specifically, I want to see penalties for staffing violations and PPE violations included in this bill. New staffing ratios are all well and good, but if they cannot be enforced when they are not followed, then they are not useful. Workers like me know that even now staffing levels are not always followed, so why would they be if we increase them? Access to PPE needs to be a violation because currently it is not. Stockpiling PPE is great, but if workers have no access, we are right back where we were when the pandemic started. DPH told us then that access to PPE wasn't a finable offense, and it still isn't in this bill. When you don't give workers access to PPE, you put everyone at risk including our residents. Proper PPE and infection control protocols have to be followed at all times.

When we are short staffed we have to work much harder, and we are not paid enough or appreciated for what we do. If we have better staffing at all times we will not have to double the amount of work like we do currently. We already feel overworked, overwhelmed, tired and frustrated. We already don't always finish our work in a timely manner. With better staffing, residents would get better care. How can they get the care that they deserve when we don't have enough staff? Having too many residents at a time will not give them proper care. I like that this bill changes the staffing ratios to address the need for better patient care. Please pass Senate Bill 1030 with the mentioned changes. Thank you for your time.