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May 15, 2024

Hon. Marvin Abney, Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for House Bill 7298 "Medicaid Home Care Rate Increases"**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Andrea Sykes. I have been a CNA for about 9 years. I love helping and assisting my clients and seeing the joy on their faces when I arrive. Most of the clients that I assist do not have many families or many family members that are involved in their lives. Sometimes a visit from their CNA is the only visit they get. I feel it is important to provide services to clients in the comfort of their own homes rather than being sent off to a nursing home.

A pay raise for me would help my overall living conditions for my family and I for a better way of life. It would help put healthy food on the table and provide clothes for my growing daughter. It would help to possibly establish savings for an unplanned emergency or for the future of my family. Right now, I struggle with bill payments for everyday amenities.

I struggle to put healthy food on my Table, and I never have money for anything extra such as a family vacation or activities for my child. While I am taking classes to further my career, it is very difficult having to maintain full time work, go to school, do schoolwork, and have time for my family.

To be honest a pay raise would also help my mental health as well. Times are extremely tough right now and I know it not only weighs on me but on many of my colleagues as well. I graciously thank you for hearing what I have to say and hope you make the right decision.

*Compassion. Excellence. Reliability.*