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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,

Good afternoon. My name is Jemere.

I have been a CNA for many years. I have only worked in home care because it brings me joy to know I am helping people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible by providing the extra assistance they need. So many bonds are built with clients because we provide consistency. Sometimes we are the only visitors they receive.

This is why it is important to be able to continue providing care at home opposed to a facility where the client becomes a number. As a single mom, it has also allowed me the flexibility in scheduling to be available for my child's needs. The cost of everything has risen drastically, but the pay has not. Sadly, in some cases workers in home care who are caring for your loved ones are making less than a fast-food worker. This is not acceptable!

With any employer, it becomes hard to recruit and maintain employees without being able to adequately pay them for their services. The quality of work and care suffer as well because many people are working multiple jobs to make ends meet so on top of the financial issues, there's stress and lack of rest which promote a host of other issues such as physical ailments. This affects so many people all over. We hope you hear our voices and include Senate Bill 2309 in the 2025 budget.

Thank you.

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