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Apr 29, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman

Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street, Room 35
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Jessy Suero, and I serve as the Director of Operations for Good Shepherd Home Care. But long before that, I was the son of a CNA. I've seen firsthand what it means to serve, and to be unseen.

Growing up, my mother worked long, thankless hours—often returning home late, physically drained, emotionally spent, and still underpaid. She was the person caring for other people's loved ones, yet there was never enough left over to ease our own household struggles. I saw how hard she worked. And I saw how little the system gave back.

Today, I work alongside CNAs and homemakers just like her. I manage the schedules. I hear the fatigue in their voices — fatigue not just from long hours, but from knowing that

no matter how hard they work, the system hasn't kept up with their worth. They are the ones holding our healthcare system together in homes across this state—yet they are often the first to be forgotten.

That's why I'm speaking up now.

When we cut funding to support this workforce, we don't just shift numbers on a page—we pull the rug out from under real people, real families. If the behavioral health wage enhancement ends, hundreds of hardworking CNAs and homemakers will lose not only pay—but dignity, motivation, and the recognition they deserve. And if reimbursement floors are not protected, the services that keep elders safe at home begin to erode.

I'm not writing this as a politician or policy expert. I'm writing as someone who lived on the other side of this decision. As someone who watched his mother break her back for a system that never looked back at her.

Now I help lead an agency that believes our workforce should not be the margin we cut from. We should be building care with them at the center.

So I ask you — not as a lobbyist, but as a son — to remember the workers who don't sit in this chamber but carry this state's frail and aging on their shoulders every single day.

Thank you for hearing my story. I trust you will hold it with the weight it deserves.

With deep respect,

Jessy Suero

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Director of Operations
Good Shepherd Home Care