



SEIU Healthcare

United for Quality Care

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Subject: Support for H-5257

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name's Judith Alix, and I've been a CNA since 2011. After all these years, especially lately, I've seen enough to tell you our nursing homes need a big change.

Being a CNA means you see everything, good and bad. But one thing that's really hard is not having what we need to do our jobs right. We've had to work with what we got, and sometimes that's not much. We've had diapers that can't hold up, not enough staff to help all the residents properly, and sometimes the food we give our residents could be a lot better.

Imagine looking after more than 50 residents with only 3 CNAs around. It shows you right away where cutting corners gets you – nowhere good.

We need more than just bodies on the floor; we need enough support to provide the care our residents deserve. They're owed that much. We know that should have a certain number of staff, but often, that's not the case.

That's why we're talking about the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Advisory Board. This board can make sure the money goes where it's supposed to – for better stuff we need, enough of us to care for residents, and making life better for them. We need to make sure places are doing what they're supposed to, not just keeping the money for themselves while everyone else is having a tough time.

Thank you for passing this bill last year—I hope you'll do it again. Our residents deserve better, and so do we.

Sincerely,
Judith Alix