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**Subject: Support for H-5257**

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

My name is Lonise Adolphe, and for 30 years, I've been working as a CNA/MEDTECH over at Bannister Center. It's been a long road, filled with all sorts of challenges. We've been through receivership, always short on staff, earning barely enough to get by, and our health benefits? Let's just say they could've been better.

All this time, it felt like the folks running the place were doing just fine, pocketing profits and living well, while folks like us, doing the real work, struggled to make ends meet for our families.

It shouldn't be this way, should it? Working our tails off to help those who need us the most, but barely scraping by ourselves—that's just wrong.

But then, things started to look up. Thanks to our union and all of us coming together, fighting for what we deserve, we managed to make a real change at Bannister. We pushed for higher wages, and we got them. It's a big win, but it wasn't easy getting there.

This is exactly why we need the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Advisory Board. It's about time we had someone making sure that living wages aren't just a nice idea, but a reality. And it's not just about stopping owners from taking all the profits for themselves; it's about making sure we, the folks doing the hard work, can actually live on what we earn.

Thank you to the Committee and to the full House for passing this bill last year. I urge you to pass it again—because we need it now more than ever.

Sincerely,  
Lonise Adolphe