



Testimony on SB328
The Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Act of 2024
Position: **FAV**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rhonda White. I am a certified medicine aide at a Long Term Care facility, and a union Delegate for 1199SEIU. I support SB328: The Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024, and urge you to issue a favorable report. This bill would help fix the staffing crisis in nursing homes by increasing wages for caregivers like me.

Healthcare workers made sacrifices on the frontlines of COVID19. Some of us survived, others lost their lives, or left healthcare. Those of us still working are dealing with a short staffing crisis. This was a problem before the pandemic but is even worse now.

Our facilities are short staffed because the wages are too low. Recently, I was conducting a new hire orientation. When I told the new GNA what her wages would be, she told me she would “be right back” then I looked out the window and saw her driving away, and never heard from her again. This is just one of many examples.

In my facility we have one GNA to 20 patients, so we can’t spend enough time with our patients. We provide high quality healthcare, but can’t be everywhere at once. This is bad for residents, and for workers too. When we don’t have enough workers, our mental and physical health suffers. We are stuck in a cycle of not having enough workers, so many workers burnout and quit, then the short staffing cycle continues.

Senators, you have the power to break this cycle. Vote yes on SB328. Healthcare workers care for you, please care for us. Thank you.

Sincerely, Rhonda White