



Testimony on SB679/HB933
The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act of 2025
Position: **FAV**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kirsathl Kennedy. I work as Geriatric Nursing Assistant at a nursing home, and I am a member of 1199SEIU, United Healthcare Workers East. I support SB679/HB933: The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act of 2025 and urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Providing care has always been a part of my life since I was young. Growing up, I saw my grandmother take care of our family members. When her health declined, I helped my mom, who is also a GNA, take care of my grandma. This work is personal to me, and I believe that we need better care infrastructures that can ensure we can take care of our loved ones with love, dignity, and support.

I've worked over 60 hours a week with take home pay of about \$800. This is barely enough to pay my rent and all my bills. Not only am I working night shifts and long hours, but there is also always a shortage of GNAs. That means that, while the state standard staff to patient ratio is 1:40, there are weeks where I am taking care of about 60 patients. Even if the state standard is too low, we need more GNAs so that every patient is getting quality care.

It was already bad before COVID-19, but the pandemic really burnt us out and showed us how little the system really cares about us or our patients. We were overworked, underpaid, and at risk of spreading COVID-19 all while trying to take care of our families when we got home. It's not just nurses, our housekeeping and dietary aides in the nursing homes are the most understaffed. It takes longer for rooms to get disinfected and cleaned, and patient mealtimes are impacted as well.

I remember a specific patient who came into the nursing home relatively healthy and mobile. He would go on walks around the building, but soon he started getting bed sores and became completely bed-ridden. I have seen patients die because management did not ensure we had the appropriate number of staff on call.

Patients are dying and will continue to die in heartbreaking and inhuman conditions if we let our long-term care system continue to put profit over people. Vote YES on SB679/HB933.

Sincerely,

Kirsathl Kennedy