



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 Pat Walker, I am a Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) at a long-term care facility in Montgomery County, and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. I've been a GNA in long-term care for 23 years. I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB679/HB933: The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act of 2025 to investigate how nursing homes spend the public dollars they receive. Knowing that vital information can help solve the short staffing crisis in long-term care.

I work the 7am-3pm shift, which is the most difficult shift because of all the things that need to be completed in that timeframe. When I clock in, I do rounds to make sure everyone is breathing, go get my daily assignments, and give residents showers or hand baths. This must be finished in time to feed them breakfast at 8:45am. After breakfast, I help get the residents out of bed and do linen and Depends changes by 12pm when we start serving lunch. Then the cycle repeats. Before I clock out, I also must document every interaction with every resident.

We have 15-20 patients per GNA in my facility, which is too many for one GNA to care for at one time. If multiple residents ring their alarm indicating they need assistance at the same time, they are left to wait in bed because we literally cannot be in two places at once. That means residents develop ulcers and bedsores, and they become very stressed out.

Short staffing is as stressful for the workers as it is for the residents. When I look around at my coworkers who have been doing this work for 40+ years, I notice that every single one of them walks with a limp or has some other physical ailment caused by the toll working short takes on our bodies. Our mental health suffers too because there is no outlet for the stress we experience on the job. We just have to grin and bear it because we don't want that stress to impact residents or our coworkers.

Please vote YES on SB679/HB933. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pat Walker

Commented [LA1]: ?

Commented [2R1]: Thanks! I think it's supposed to say "bed pan"