



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 Holly Ward and I am Geriatric Nursing Assistant in a long-term care facility and a member of 1199. I support SB679/HB933: The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act because the state should have more oversight on how nursing homes spend the public dollars they are allocated—dollars that are meant for resident care and worker wages & benefits.

Low wages mean high turnover and a staffing crisis. If long-term care facilities are unable to retain workers, what will older adults and people with disabilities do to survive? Long-term care is important because no one foresees that they will need this kind of assistance. The residents do not choose to be there. I love my job because I provide them with empathy and compassion.

We need legislators to realize that as medical providers, we put most of our lives into these residents. It is shameful that we are paid such low wages after all the sacrifices that we make. Our care team is burnt out with overwhelming workloads, dangerous staffing shortages, and the emotional toll of caring for residents facing isolation, sickness, and death. We do not receive the respect that we deserve when these facilities would not run without us. Low pay requires me to subsidize my income and rely on assistance such as food stamps.

Transparency about how nursing home management allocates its money is good public health policy and a matter of racial equity. The direct care workforce in nursing homes is primarily Black women over age 40. We are not only failing to attract new workers to these jobs, but we are also trapping those who are currently in this workforce in poverty. Vote YES on SB679/HB933. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Holly Ward