

## 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 Rhonda White. I am a certified medicine aide at a long-term care facility, and a union delegate for 1199. I support SB679/HB933: The Nursing Home Care Crisis Transparency Act. This bill would help fix the staffing crisis because insight into nursing home spending will improve working conditions and quality of care for our residents.

Healthcare workers made sacrifices on the frontlines of COVID-19. 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. In my facility we have one GNA to 20 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 burn out and quit, then the short staffing cycle continues.

The root cause of the short staffing cycle is low wages. 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.

Legislators, <u>you</u> have the power to break this cycle. Vote yes on SB679/HB933. Healthcare workers care for you, please care for us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rhonda White