



SB663/HB1414
Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2026
Position: **FAV**

To Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Vanessa Barber. I have been a CNA/GNA at a Long-Term Care facility for 29 years. Over the last several years, the short staffing crisis has gotten worse and worse. I support the Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act and urge a **favorable** report because we need all the help we can get to provide high quality care to our residents and hire more staff.

Patient care suffers when all our departments are constantly understaffed. It's not just the nursing and technical departments that are short staffed. We need more dietary and environmental service workers as well. I do everything I can for my residents because I care deeply about their wellbeing. But no amount of hard and careful work can make up for the fact that we simply don't have enough workers in our facility. This bill will help the residents get what they deserve - proper staffing levels to provide the care that they pay for.

Short staffing begets short staffing. Sometimes, we have to care for 29 patients at a time, which is twice the number we should be caring for. Workers call out because they are burnt out from being overworked. Workers can't provide the highest quality care when we are too tired, so many take their sick time – as they should – but then it leaves the rest of us working short. We need lawmakers to help break this cycle by passing the Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act.

I could retire anytime I want to, but I am choosing to stay in the healthcare workforce right now because I want to make sure my residents are okay. I know how short the facility is, and I don't want to contribute to further short staffing because I want what is best for my residents. But that is not a choice anyone should have to make! My residents should be able to live with dignity just as I should be able to retire with dignity. Requiring 75% of Medicaid dollars to be spent on direct care would incentivize management to hire more workers. I hope you pass the Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act this year. Please vote YES.

In Unity,

Vanessa Barber