

Angel Garris  
SEIU 49 Member  
Kaiser Safety Team Member and a C.N.A 2

### **Testimony in Support of SB 572**

Chair Monnes Anderson - members of the committee, for the record my name is Angel Garris and I am an SEIU 49 member, as well as on the Kaiser Safety Team. I have been a C.N.A for eighteen years and a member of the Kaiser Safety Team for 15 years and I am proud of the work that we are doing to protect the safety of our care givers and our patients. I travel throughout the hospital providing lift assistance and training.

Our safe patient handling program was started eight years ago with the purchase of lift equipment that transitioned into having a lift team and now a safe patient handling team that incorporates safety into safe patient handling. That includes patient mobility, staff mentoring and training at the patient bedside, and identifying things that may be a risk to staff's safety. It's important to have a team that has critical thinking skills and does lifting repetitively. It's a necessary part of the team to make the patient the core of the focus and for those team members to be engaged in the training and the committee. At Kaiser we have one team per shift with one person on night shift.

At Kaiser we have seen a significant amount of reduction in injuries of our ICU staff some of the most critical staff and patients in the hospital all of our ICU nurses know to use the equipment. The ICU nurses picked the equipment and then they sent the team to the company for training. We have a room in our hospital that has two pieces of lift equipment for larger size patients that lift up to 1,014 pounds which unfortunately is necessary in our field. If wasn't for that room we have a lot more injuries, and we don't have enough of those rooms we need more.

It's important in a safe patient handling policy to not get complacent until it becomes a habit it's important that we have refreshers. It's critical that every year we do hands on competency training, because this is machinery.

We have already seen the shortage of nursing that's happened, lifting puts so many people at risk doing the physicality of our jobs. We are critical staff to the hospital, our community, and most important our patients if we all get broken we can't show up to work.