



April 3, 2019

Co- Keny Guyer, Vice Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Noble, members of the committee, my name is Kyndall Mason; I am a political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on long term care. Our Local represents more than 30,000 long term care workers, many of whom work in nursing homes and increasingly, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities. Our members provide care and supports for people affected by aging, physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of those workers in regards to the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman.

SEIU advocates for support of the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsmen on a consistent basis. They have been great allies and we worked in 2013 to expand the purview of the Office to include Residential Facilities, which house people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As with any agency, we have also seen that the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman is taxed with so much work, and so many various settings to cover, that it's near impossible to keep up with the demand and oversight that is needed in many of these facilities.

SEIU is looking forward to many years of collaboration with this office, and we support HB 3413, so that the Office can hire enough deputies to simply deal with the demands.

Thank you for your time today.

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