

Homecare Modernization Act - HB 4129



Deb Sanchez
- Gladstone

Getting started as a paid caregiver had some problems. It was hard to get set up with OHCC because of all the paperwork. The four hours a day the state had approved for my first consumer weren't enough. She fell a few times when I wasn't there, so I tried to stretch my four hours to meet her needs. I asked for more hours, but it was hard to get. I ended up staying all day to make sure she didn't fall.

One night, I had to leave for an event, and the next day, her son found her. She had another stroke and was left alone all night lying on the floor. I felt guilty, thinking if I had stayed longer, maybe we could have helped her in time. They took her to hospice, and she died that day.

My current client has Rheumatoid arthritis. She can't clean up and vacuum or cook her meals. She has no family in the state. I was told in December that I couldn't get paid for January because of a paperwork issue. The state said I had to tell my client that my certification lapsed and stop helping her until the paperwork was figured out. But she had nobody else, so I kept showing up to help her as much as I could while I figured out the paperwork issue. I had to reach out to her case worker at the local office, the Home Care Commission, and APD repeatedly to find out that the state thought I needed a new background check for some unknown reason. I finally got my certification back, but they said I won't get paid for the hours I worked without it even though the missing background check was an administrative error, and I should have been fine to work the whole time.

This needs to change. Caregivers shouldn't face these problems. We can't leave our seniors at home without the care they need because someone messed up in an office somewhere. I'm just a homecare worker, hoping for a better system that respects the work we do and ensures the support we need.

Find Out More



Contact: Alice Longley Miller
longleymillera@seiu503.org

