

Submitter:

Kyle Durkee

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1505

I am a Home Care Worker and have been doing this work for 10 years. Training and development are important because they directly affect consumers' quality of life, dignity, and independence. Without properly trained workers, families are often forced to leave the workforce to care for loved ones, or individuals are pushed into residential facilities before it is truly necessary. With proper training, workers can support consumers safely and respectfully in their own homes and communities, ensuring they maintain their pride, autonomy, and the ability to live full and meaningful lives.

I do this work because I believe in the dignity of care and the dignity of the people we serve. I remain in the caregiving field because everyone deserves to live with pride and independence. Our consumers should be able to experience the world without worrying about being a burden or forcing their parents or loved ones to put their lives on hold. My work is about helping them live full lives while maintaining their autonomy and dignity.

I have health care but I can't afford it. Having healthcare is important because it is the difference between surviving and not surviving. I have suffered a heart attack and live with high blood pressure, and without access to consistent medical care, I would not be here today. Regular treatment, medication, and follow-up care have allowed me to manage these conditions instead of being overwhelmed by them. Because of healthcare, I am able to continue working and helping others. It has given me stability, strength, and the chance to live a meaningful life rather than simply reacting to medical emergencies. Access to healthcare did not just improve my life—it quite literally saved it and allows me to keep showing up for my family, my community, and the people I care for.

Improved wages have given me the ability to breathe and to live without constant fear of how I will pay my bills, put gas in my car, or afford food. For the first time, I am not just surviving from paycheck to paycheck. In short, improved wages have not only benefited my life—they have changed it. They have transformed my reality from endlessly chasing a paycheck into building and enjoying a career with stability, dignity, and purpose.

Please support SB 1505.