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United for Quality Care

February 19, 2020
Jason Butler, Personal Care Attendant
Stratford
SEIU District 1199 New England
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Jason Butler and I am here today to tell you about my experience with Allied Community Resources.

I care for a woman with a rare terminal illness, and I've committed to be with her until the end. I'm not only her 40-hour-per-week caregiver, but also her medical proxy. We have an extremely special bond and I've continued to provide care for her while she is in a nursing facility despite not getting paid. I have a 16 month old son of my own and the prospect of going without an income for many weeks is daunting. I regularly go without pay when Allied doesn't pay me on time.

Every Sunday, I both fax AND email my timesheet to Allied. I have had issues when on my normal payday, I was paid only one out of two weeks I had submitted. Neither myself nor my consumer were notified by Allied prior to Friday that there was any problem. I called Allied's office that morning and eventually was able to speak with someone who claimed that they only received half of my timesheet.

I finally received my missing pay two weeks later, but sadly one of our other 3 PCAs quit shortly after due to the frustrations of dealing with Allied's late paychecks. This not only hurts the PCA and family but Allied has now put my patient in direct danger.

This is not how you represent and respect your clients. They are dependent on their ability to have their healthcare and ability to remain home in a safe environment. When a PCA is not paid or paid late for services rendered you now directly affect their ability to work.

I value the work that needs to be done in order to safeguard not only the PCA but the employer. My patient is terminal, wheelchair bound, and at 35 struggling with her progressive genetic illness. She should not have to suffer further stress and frustrations. She deserves a time of grace and dignity and that has not been protected.

Thank you for your time.