



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

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Joshua Hallee, Personal Care Attendant
Waterbury
SEIU District 1199 New England
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Joshua Hallee. I am 28 years old and live in Waterbury. I've been in the health care field for 8 plus years and I met my current consumer through another job at a group home. When the group home closed, his conservator loved how I worked with him and asked me to care for him and get paid by Allied. I love the freedom of being his ILST, which stands for Independent Living Skills Trainer, because it means I can take him out to lunch, out to the zoo, or to work on his art which is one of the sources of his income.

However, getting paid by Allied is like getting wood splinters shoved under my fingernails. For example, last week I didn't get paid at all. My consumer lives at a group home, and during the last pay period his group home worker didn't show up for an hour and a half after my shift ended. Because I couldn't leave my consumer (nor would I want to), I stayed and adjusted my timesheet accordingly. However, because the other late worker claimed the time too which caused an hour overlap, NONE of the four providers paid by Allied were paid a dime. You might think they'd pay us any of the hours worked not subject to an overlap, but instead they didn't pay anyone anything. Not only that, but they didn't call my consumer's conservator as they're supposed to, so no one knew they weren't getting paid till we woke up Friday of payday. As a result, I ended up pawning my laptop to pay my rent and couldn't even take my fiancé out for her birthday.

Not only that, but every time we call Allied, we're on hold for at least 45 minutes if not several hours. I currently work 3 jobs – I care for two consumers through Allied, work at a group home, and provide unpaid care to my disabled father and father-in-law – so I really don't have time to take on a fourth job trying to contact Allied to get the pay I'm already owed for the hard work I do to help my consumers live independently.

Please help us live with respect and dignity, just as we help our consumers live with respect and dignity. Thank you for your time.