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United for Quality Care

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Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Annier Pennant. I got into homecare when a girlfriend and her mom were coming out of a nursing home; both needed care and I got hired to care for them. My friend's mom has Alzheimers and I was able to help the family see their mom in the present day, as she is, and provide care without getting bogged down in the past. We had a beautiful relationship, but there were problems getting paid almost immediately.

In the fall of 2018, I worked 25.5 hours per week and every two weeks, I would hand-deliver my signed timesheets to Allied. Because they stopped time stamping the timesheets delivered in person, I also started photographing the timesheets being put in their document box so I have the photo to prove I submitted before the 5pm deadline on Mondays. However, on almost all pay dates last fall, the paycheck I would receive didn't match the timesheets I had submitted.

After several months of problems, I looked up the Labor Department website which suggested I request the payroll detail report. I did all the calculations myself and after calculating what I'd been paid for and what I hadn't, I resubmitted timesheets for the missing hours – exact replicas of what I'd originally submitted! Allied finally cut a check for about \$900 in back-pay in December 2018. I never received any explanation why I hadn't been paid for so many hours in the first place.

However, in April 2019, the problems started again. This time, my coworkers also started getting shorted in their paychecks. I can't even count how many times we resubmitted the same timesheets, over and over again. By June, I was owed 394 hours in back-pay again. Allied finally paid me 194 of those hours – over \$2,000 in back-pay – but I'm STILL owed roughly another 200 hours of back-pay to this day. I put in a request and multiple calls for a payroll register and it took 10 days for Allied to even provide me this documentation.

This has made life very difficult for me. I have so many bills, and so many late charges. Everything snowballs into everything else. I finally pay one bill, just to make another late.

To go about doing my job caring for and loving my consumer, and then week after week face incomplete paychecks and spend hours on hold with Allied, watching the battery on my cell phone deplete, is beyond frustrating. We need a payroll system that will pay us

on time, every time. No one deserves the stress of wondering how we will survive when we pour our heart into caring for another person.

Thank you for your time.