



**SEIU**Healthcare®  
United for Quality Care

March 3, 2021  
Lucas Blinn, Wallingford  
PCA

SEIU District 1199 NE  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Lucas Blinn, I live in Wallingford, and I'm a PCA caring for a consumer with an intellectual disability who receives DDS services. I like the fact that this job allows me to help my consumer live a quality of life that he would be unable to have without direct support. I like that I get to help him experience things in the community and discuss with him the hobbies and interests that we share. I enjoy that I get to help him with employment and increasing his independence.

But though I love the job, the job doesn't love us back. Because I'm a DDS provider, I make a higher hourly wage and I get paid on time every week by my payroll agent, Sunset Shores. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for my brothers and sisters paid by Allied. Allied Community Resources regularly pays homecare workers late. No work force should go without pay, but especially not the people who care for the sick and elderly and disabled. If this workforce was comprised of white men, this wouldn't be an issue. Because this work is primarily done by women of color, Allied is able to get away with this criminal mistreatment. I've never been paid late because my consumer is a DDS client, but two weeks ago I took arrest in a civil disobedience in solidarity with everyone that has been paid late. An injury to one is an injury to all and we need working class solidarity. Step up. Speak out. Do the right thing.

Though I have the privilege of getting paid on time, every time, which I don't take for granted given the nightmare my fellow PCAs have experienced with Allied, there still not much else I can count on from this job. We don't have health insurance, we don't have paid time off, and very few of the miles we ever drive with our consumers in the community are ever reimbursed. I don't have to think about retirement yet, but the truth is, I probably won't ever be able to plan for retirement. Most homecare workers work until we need a homecare provider of our own.

We're calling on the State of Connecticut to help make sure we can be treated as the professionals we are. We love our consumers, we love our jobs, but we need the basic human rights that are long overdue to this workforce. We need the basic right to be paid on time – all of us, not just those of us lucky enough not to be paid by Allied. We need health insurance, paid time off, and retirement. Thank you for your time.