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March 3, 2021  
Gloria Duquette, CNA  
Kimberly Hall South  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Gloria Duquette and I am a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Kimberly Hall South in Windsor, Connecticut. I have worked at this facility for the last 9 years, but I have worked for the parent company Genesis Healthcare for the past 15 years. I am here today to ask for more funding for nursing homes in Connecticut. We need help.

In the 15 years that I have been a CNA for Genesis I have had the honor of meeting and building amazing relationships with my residents and also with their families as well. It has not only been about me learning about my residents and their families, but also my residents and their families getting to know me as well. Over the year, we have developed deep relationships.

Unfortunately, management only cares about the number of beds that they fill and not the amount of staff that we need to care for the residents properly. When this happens it leads to residents not being able to get proper care, like getting a shower or mouth care or even being able to get a decent bed bath. Most times on my shift we are at 1 CNA to 15 residents if not more, and out of that 15 to 13 of those residents require total care. How can we give our residents the proper care that they need when we don't have the staff to do so?

Workers like me are also forced to work 2-3 jobs just to make ends meet. During the pandemic, this has contributed to the spread of Covid. In addition, we're uninsured or underinsured. Our health insurance is inadequate because we don't make enough to even cover the high co-pays that our insurance gives to us. If we're paid what we deserved to be paid, and if we had the benefits that would give us the security of knowing ourselves and our families were taken care of, we could make the decision to only work one job.

I hope that this committee is listening and truly understands what needs to be done. Thank you for your time.