



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

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Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee. My name is Jonathan and I am a homecare worker. I care for my brother who has Down Syndrome. It means everything that I can care for my brother. My parents are elderly and I don't know how they could make it work without me. I am here today to call on the state to protect us, respect us and pay us on time every time.

As homecare workers we work tirelessly around the clock and serve as the invisible backbone of the healthcare system. We all do a job that serves our states most delicate and vulnerable citizens and we do so with the love and quality care they deserve. But what about us? Our fiscal intermediary, Allied, doesn't even pay us sometimes for the hours we work. When we call we are forced to wait 45+ minutes for someone to pick up to report our lost wages. Some of us have to wait an entire pay period to hope and pray that we get paid correctly the following week. Unfortunately, this is the reality we have grown numb to as our cries have continued to fall on deaf ears. But today we are calling on you to stand with us to tell Allied that they need to pay us on time, every time. Please support us.

In addition, homecare workers have to deal with the issues with Allied AND the fact that we get paid poverty wages and have no benefits. If we had benefits in homecare, like health insurance, paid sick days, and retirement, I wouldn't be under constant stress. I'm standing with my Union to fight for a \$20/hour minimum wage, benefits like paid time off and retirement, and a future where all PCAs are treated like the professionals we are, because in the end we do a lot of the footwork that helps the elderly and those with disabilities have lives of dignity at home. We care for the most vulnerable; and all we're asking for is to be able to care for ourselves, too. Thank you for your time.