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New Haven
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Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Committee, my name is Lynne Zimmer and I am a Consumer-Employer living in New Haven. I'm from Washington State but moved to Connecticut after having a stroke and being diagnosed with heart failure in 2018. I was a psychotherapist before I had my stroke. I have two grown children who have their own lives, and they could not care for me, so I knew I needed a homecare provider.

It was much harder to get homecare services here than it was in my home state of Washington, but finally, with my kids' help, I qualified for the waiver program. The best thing about the homecare waiver program is my PCA, Anthony. He can see my needs before I ask, and he reminds me of my children.

But the worst thing about this program is Allied, the payroll company. With both of my PCAs, it took three months to get their application processed by Allied. In one case, this delayed the care that I needed. With Anthony, he worked without pay for two months!

I depend on my PCAs, and my PCAs depend on their paychecks. With one of my PCAs, there's a problem with the timesheet every other week. It's not fair for Allied to tell them "maybe you'll get paid next week." They need their paychecks!

In Washington, things were different. It was easier to get services, and my case worker did a lot more to support me there. My PCAs were never paid late, and they had health insurance and paid time off. In Connecticut, we need DSS to fire Allied and hire a payroll company that will treat us fairly. Everyone should have healthcare and paid sick time, whether you're single or married, rich or poor. But especially PCAs who take care of Consumers like me, both for their protection and mine. Thank you for listening.