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SEIU 1199NE  
Marybeth Cimino  
Before the Human Services and  
Aging Committees

*In Support of* **SB 989 An Act Concerning Nursing Homes**

Good Afternoon Senator Lesser, Senator Hochadel, Representative Gilcrest, Representative Garibay, and members of the Human Services and Aging Committees. My name is Marybeth Cimino, I live in Wallingford, and I've worked as a Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) at Arden House in Hamden for over 40 years. I come before you today in support of SB 989 An Act Concerning Nursing Homes.

Working as a CNA has been incredibly fulfilling work and I truly love my job, but this field has changed so much over the decades and I'm sad to say for the worst. Every year the staffing gets worse and residents' acuity continues to go up. My residents are older, heavier, sicker, and all around require more care. I know this is the reality of this evolving field but it doesn't have to be. The current status quo in nursing homes is a result of decades of underfunding and understaffing.

Short staffing has only exacerbated the problems we have in nursing homes, and leaves my coworkers and I burnt out and exhausted. There is an emotional toll to this work. We love our residents and while we are doing the very best we can, we know the care they are receiving is not the quality care they deserve. These are people's mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and loved ones we are caring for. Like everyone they deserve a dignified life, and we struggle everyday to give that to them.

The solution is simple. We need to staff our homes properly and we need to hold nursing homes responsible when they do not meet staffing standards. With more staff we would have time to feed, bathe, and care for our residents' needs without having to rush to the next resident. It is heartbreaking when a resident asks you to sit and talk with them for five minutes because they are lonely, but you can't because if you do you won't have time to care for the other residents. Beyond keeping our residents happy we also have to keep them safe. We have four residents who are fall risks on nearly every unit. We cannot be everywhere at once, so falls are inevitable.

The state has a moral obligation to ensure residents are receiving the care they deserve, and this bill is a great step in that direction. As elected legislators you have the power to make a difference. You can stand up for the voiceless residents and workers who suffer under the

weight of short staffing. Please demonstrate that you care for this hidden population and pass SB 989.

Thank you.