

March 5, 2025
Lonise Adolphe, CMT/CNA
Cranston

Subject: Opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2)

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Lonise Adolphe, I live in Cranston, and I have been a CMT and Med Tech for almost 30 years. I love my residents, they call me Lolo, which is a nickname only my family and close friends use. But that's how we are, we're family. Bannister, where I work, is like a second home for me. My testimony today is in opposition to Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2).

On my floor, there are 55 beds, occupied by patients with Alzheimer and dementia—who are very difficult to care for properly. To make matters worse, we are short staffed all the time and it's total chaos. We're all over the place, running around to make sure the residents are ok. For staff, we only have me, the nurse, and 4 CNAs. If we were fully staffed, we should have 6 CNAs, but management never puts that many people on. They save money because they know we'll run around, skip our breaks, stay late, do two jobs each because we care so much about our residents. I can't tell you how many times we go home with our lunch bag still full because we couldn't even take five minutes on our 8 hour shift to eat our sandwich.

It's the residents who suffer most, though. These people have worked their whole lives and they need us. They need us for basic dignities like going to bed, getting a snack, and going to the bathroom. When we are short staffed, they have to wait longer. You wouldn't like this if it was you waiting for a snack when you're hungry or the toilet when your bowels are full.

We know our company can afford to staff better. We need the General Assembly to protect the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act and oppose Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2) so our residents get the care they need. Thank you.