

March 5, 2025
Rick Butler, CNA
Pawtucket

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 Rick Butler and I live in Pawtucket. I have been a CNA for 7 years and work at a nursing home in East Providence. I became a CNA because I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. My residents trust me to provide them with the highest possible standard of care. My testimony today is in opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2).

I work nights, and you might think the residents sleep through the whole night, but that's not true. When we are short staffed, it can make the shift challenging. Some nights, we have 41 residents with just 2 CNAs to provide care. One time, I was taking care of a resident and a call light went off in another room. I went to answer the call light, the resident said she had to go to the restroom. I was helping another resident at the moment so I told her to hold on, I'll be with her shortly. I rushed to finish with the first resident, but by the time I got back, the other resident had wet herself. She was upset and crying, and I felt awful. I know I can't be in two places at once, but I feel like I'm not doing my job when my residents feel neglected.

When there is another aide to help we have time to do other things for the residents, not just vitals and charting, but we can check on our residents more often. Our rounds are more frequent so residents don't need to wait so long for the bathroom or water or a snack. If two call lights are going off at the same time, I can rely on my coworkers to help. It's still tough, we still need to work hard, but we can help one another.

I became a CNA to help people, to have my residents' backs. General Assembly, I need you to have our backs. Please protect the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act and oppose Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2). Thank you.