

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Heather Austin <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:34 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Workforce Standards Board Bill (H-7733 | S-2621)

Committee Clerk Steven Sepe,

Dear Dear Honorable Members of the House and Senate Committees on Health and Human Services:

As a former CNA and family caregiver, I am writing in support of the Workforce Standards Board Bill. During my 20 years as a family caregiver and 11 years as a CNA working in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, I strongly urge you to vote for passage of this bill.

Over a period of many years, I have experienced and seen first-hand the deplorable deficiencies in care, staffing, and training in RI nursing homes. Everyone in this state should be ashamed of our failure to provide adequate care for our vulnerable residents.

It is far too easy to believe that, as members of the House and Senate, you will never have to live out your days in one of our state's substandard nursing homes. But there are no guarantees in life. You may find yourself tomorrow in a medical situation where there is no alternative for you except long term care in a nursing home.

Will you feel comfortable knowing that you will be residing in a facility that ranks 38th in the nation for staffing levels and one where immediate jeopardy findings have increased by 138% from 2022 to 2023? I am terrified of the prospect and I have been a CNA/caregiver in these very facilities!

This bill offers a chance to start to make a turn-around in this appalling nursing home care, staffing, and training crisis. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Heather Austin  
Warwick, RI

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