

Jamila Levasseur

Waldo

LD 1932

I am writing to support LD 1932. Before I became a Registered Nurse, I was a full time Personal Care Assistant for a severely physically disabled family member. During those six years, I was entirely dependent on family resources and a small stipend from the state because I did not have enough flexibility in my schedule to hold another job. Later, as a Registered Nurse, I worked in spinal cord injury, stroke and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation, often teaching family members how to best care for their loved ones. I also worked with many amazing, dedicated nursing assistants who received far less pay than I. Many struggled to pay rent and provide for their own children, yet they showed up day after day to care for our patients. So I can say from personal experience and observation, essential support workers are caring, compassionate hard-working people often with seemingly infinite patience. It's a job not everyone can do and those who take on these responsibilities should be well compensated. It's the least we can do if we are to be a decent society.