



Testimony in support:

LD 979, "Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 113: Assisted Housing Programs Licensing Rule, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services"

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

April 1st, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Aubri Slaugh. I live in Farmington. I am a CNA. I am here today in support of this legislation on behalf of the Direct Care and Support Professional Advisory Council. Council members are Direct Care Support Professionals (DSPs), Personal Support Specialists (PSSs), Home Health Aides (HHAs) and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) all employed across the state in long-term services and supports settings. The mission of the Council is to create a strong collective voice on behalf of direct care and support professionals.

Thank you for giving me a few moments here today to speak about the importance of better regulation in assisted housing programs. The improved staffing levels that will be required with this new rule will mean everything to direct care staff like me, who struggle every day to meet the needs of residents when there are not enough staff. It will encourage staff to remain in their jobs that have often seemed impossible. It will support staff in providing better care.

I can tell you from my personal experience how exhausting and discouraging it is when there are not enough staff to provide care. I can tell you how hard it is to stay in a job when turnover is high and the coworkers who are part of your team give up and leave, all because working conditions are just too hard.

I do this work because I want to make a difference. I am also moved by the responsibility of compassionate care. That means finding a way to make the people I care for smile. It

means showing up every morning and knowing that my presence brings dignity and comfort to others.

I am honored to provide care to people who have worked their entire lives, who created careers, homes, and families. People who built a living they cherished only to spend their last days in a long-term care home. I am there for veterans who fought previous wars only to watch them fight new ones. We are with the people we care for through every step of decline, even when their memories disappear and all they know is confusion. We are there providing care and kindness at the end of life.

It is important that we do all we can do for residents in assisted housing. We need the regulations proposed by this bill to protect resident care. We need it also to support the direct care staff who cannot do their best without more help.

I urge you to vote in support of LD 979. Thank you for your time today. I'm happy to try and answer any questions.