



SEIU Healthcare

United for Quality Care

New England Health Care Employees Union
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April 26, 2022

Dear Governor Ned Lamont,

We, the members of District 1199, request that you immediately allocate \$60 million in additional funding needed to secure our pension and support affordable health care for thousands of long-term care workers in group homes and nursing homes, \$180 million over three years in pandemic pay for thousands of private sector workers and fill over 1,000 public sector healthcare positions by August 1, 2022.

Austerity policies aimed at cutting essential services must cease and desist. We are the wealthiest state in per capita income in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world. The State of Connecticut is netting billions of dollars in surpluses and the rainy day fund. It's raining. It's pouring. A Silver Tsunami is violently approaching and we seek safe haven. We are calling on you to protect Connecticut's residents by refilling state worker positions and expanding public sector services to save lives.

As health care workers, we love caring for people in need, and we enjoy doing it well. But we need robust resources to provide effective healing outcomes in every community. We must live up to our values and recognize the workers who braved the pandemic by maintaining proper staffing levels and providing competitive compensation, as well as preserving the network of critical services that can only be provided by the state to care for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

District 1199's long-term care Union contracts are a significant remedy for many racial and economic injustices perpetrated against us as workers, as a workforce staffed by a majority of Black and brown women throughout our nation's history. And we refuse to live in poverty for much longer.

District 1199 calls for racial, gender and economic justice, with the simple proposition that long-term care workers should be making livable wages that reflect the real value of their work. We are human beings, and we need to pay our bills and care for our families. We should be able to count on the protections of affordable health care, and a modest pension to live with dignity upon retirement. We hope that you agree that these protections, and a \$20 starting wage, is only the bare minimum that we deserve.

As you are aware, Connecticut's nursing home workers, and community program caregivers in group homes and day programs, put their lives on the line every day for others during the pandemic, as did thousands of other private sector workers across the state. We have lost hundreds of workers' lives to coronavirus. And our 1199 brothers and sisters have lost relatives who likely caught covid from working family members in long-term care facilities. All of our hearts broke as we witnessed hundreds of our beloved residents pass away in the early days of the pandemic. We are asking you to champion the smallest token of appreciation for the sacrifices we and our families made in the last two years and provide pandemic pay to workers. It is what we deserve.


As you know, budgets are moral documents. The twenty-five 1199 caregivers who paid the ultimate price are evidence of the ongoing devastation in our human, rather than fiscal crisis. With a \$4-billion dollar surplus, there is no budgetary issue that cannot be easily surmounted. We appeal to your good will, compassion, and humanity as we ask you to champion caregivers, their families, and their patients.


We have sacrificed for decades in exchange for poverty wages. We have sacrificed our bodies and our mental health. We'd like to ensure that you are ready to do the right thing for the dedicated long-term care workers of the State of Connecticut.

In Unity and Solidarity,


The Members of the District 1199NE Executive Board



[Soheila Dehlavi-Wheeler \(Apr 24, 2022 20:56 EDT\)](#)
Soheila Dehlavi-Wheeler
Retired, DDS



[Charlene Bell \(Apr 25, 2022 09:35 EDT\)](#)
Charlene Bell
DDS


[Brian Williams \(Apr 22, 2022 22:03 EDT\)](#)
Brian Williams
DMHAS/CT Valley Hospital



[Robin Falanga \(Apr 22, 2022 20:54 EDT\)](#)
Robin Falanga
DMHAS



[Darnell Ford \(Apr 24, 2022 18:43 EDT\)](#)
Darnell Ford
DCF



[Olive Tronchin \(Apr 24, 2022 14:18 EDT\)](#)
Olive Tronchin
Dept. of Public Health



[Lynda Frank \(Apr 22, 2022 20:45 EDT\)](#)
Lynda Frank
Home Care PCA



[Tamika James \(Apr 25, 2022 09:40 EDT\)](#)
Tamika James
DMHAS/Whiting Forensic Hospital



[Kia Joyner \(Apr 24, 2022 12:11 EDT\)](#)
Kia Joyner
Cassena Norwalk


[Yvonne Robinson \(Apr 22, 2022 21:17 EDT\)](#)
Yvonne Robinson
RegalCare
Southport



Francene Bailey
Kimberly Hall
North



[Sherrene Laing \(Apr 22, 2022 20:39 EDT\)](#)
Sherrene Laing
Parkville Care
Center


[Bonnie Gaudreau \(Apr 22, 2022 20:38 EDT\)](#)
Bonnie Gaudreau
JACC Danielson

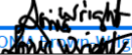

[Mary Beth Cimino \(Apr 25, 2022 10:31 EDT\)](#)
Mary Beth Cimino
Arden House



[Luis Orlando Nieves \(Apr 22, 2022 21:34 EDT\)](#)
Luis Nieves
Mt. Sinai Hospital


[Lebert Lewin \(Apr 24, 2022 11:30 EDT\)](#)
Lebert Lewin
Harc, Inc.



[Romona Barnes \(Apr 22, 2022 22:21 EDT\)](#)
Romona Barnes
Waterbury Hospital



[Pamella Reid-Johnson \(Apr 24, 2022 11:25 EDT\)](#)
Pamella Reid-Johnson
Oak Hill



[Sonia Brown-Wright \(Apr 25, 2022 06:26 EDT\)](#)
Sonia Brown-Wright
Institute of Living


[Jennifer Brown \(Apr 25, 2022 09:01 CDT\)](#)
Jennifer Brown
Sunrise


[Laverne Spinks-Hatcher \(Apr 22, 2022 21:27 EDT\)](#)
Laverne-Spinks Hatcher
Journey Found


[Kimberly Hunt Hudson \(Apr 23, 2022 16:38 EDT\)](#)
Kim Hudson
Trinity Hill


[Karlene Whonder \(Apr 23, 2022 20:16 EDT\)](#)
Karlene Whonder
Home Care PCA


[Lynette Dockery \(Apr 24, 2022 10:54 EDT\)](#)
Lynette Dockery
Home Care PCA