

March 18, 2025
Senate Committee on Healthcare
Re: Support SB 27

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee:

My name is Trude Lewis, and I am writing in support of SB 27. I participated in the RISE Partnership's Long-Term CareWorks CNA apprenticeship program. This program has honestly changed my life. Before learning about this program, I had never considered becoming a CNA. But I am so glad I did because I found my calling.

So many times, I have tried and failed to go to school and work full time. The stipend I received through the program finally made it possible to focus on school! I am eternally grateful for the opportunities this program provides.

Having support from our Career Coaches made a huge impact. My Career Coach, Veronica, got me through some rough times when I was struggling. She was like my personal cheerleader.

This investment is vital to ensure people like me have the opportunity to better our station in life. I'm a type 1 diabetic and I rely on health insurance and a constant flow of income. This program gave that to me!

If I didn't have this opportunity, I would never have found the joy I find in taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves.

Thank you all so much, and PLEASE, keep the funding alive! Please vote yes for SB 27.

Trude Lewis