The Connecticut General Assembly

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HOMECARE WORKERS CONTRACT AMENDMENT PASSES HOUSE, RECEIVES BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

State Rep. Mike D'Agostino leads House passage of contract amendment that will raise wages, provide workers' compensation and increase funding for training programs

State Rep. Mike D'Agostino, D-Hamden, led House passage of a contract amendment that will raise wages, provide workers' compensation and increase funding for training and orientation programs for approximately 8,500 personal care attendants.

In a 127-16 vote with eight abstentions, the contract amendment was passed by the state House of Representatives Wednesday.

These workers care for elderly and disabled Connecticut residents in their homes by helping them with grocery shopping, dressing, bathing, cooking and transportation.

"Every day, our personal care attendants put the needs of their clients ahead of their own. They're there to lend a helping hand to their clients during their times of need, and they treat and love them as if they are their own family. But it's time for us to take care of these workers. By raising their wages and providing workers' compensation and overtime, we can give these workers the financial security they need to care for and provide for their families," **D'Agostino** said.

"This contract is a vital step forward in providing a living wage for homecare workers who provide invaluable services to our communities," said SEIU 1199 spokesperson Jennifer Schneider. "Workers who spend their days caring for others deserve to be able to earn wages that allow them to care for their own families. Providing a living wage for people who care for the elderly and disabled is not a Republican or Democratic issue, it's a right or wrong issue."

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