

## Legislative Visit Testimony Template

Prepared by Fenton Communications and Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
[Fact Sheets and Info for May 15th CARA Legislative Day](#)

The following is a short template you can use to draft a testimony.

- Keep your remarks short but also personal and be sure that they answer the question: ***Why do I care about what we're asking for? For example, what would it mean to me if CA had a universal social insurance program that would help all residents afford the long-term care and long-term services and supports they need to live with dignity and independence in their home and community?***
- Practice giving your testimony and try to keep it to under 90 seconds (a minute and a half).
- Write your answers below each prompt to help you draft your testimony.

INTRO: Introduce yourself and thank the person for meeting with you.

- *Ex. Hello my name is Mina Soloman and I live in your district. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.*

ASK: State upfront the ONE thing you want the person to understand or remember. (If your group leader has yet to make the ask, you can state that here as well.)

- *Ex. The one thing I want you to understand is that the lack of a safety net for long term care and long-term services and supports is putting my mother's life and my life at risk.*

STORY: Explain why you care about this issue and what it means to you, your family, and your community. You can either talk about (A) the challenges you are experiencing and the negative impact it is having on your life; or (B) how a program that would help you or your family afford long-term care/long-term services and supports such as homecare or respite care would be beneficial to you and your loved ones - how would it positively change your life.

- *Ex. I have a nine-year-old daughter and I'm the primary caregiver of my mother who suffered a stroke and was diagnosed with dementia. My mother doesn't qualify for MediCal funded homecare so all the caregiving falls to me. I don't have enough time or energy to take care of her, my daughter, and work full time. A universal long term care social insurance program would help me afford support like hiring a homecare attendant during the day for my mom. This would allow me to focus on my work as well as help my*

*daughter with her homework and other afterschool activities without worrying that my mom might try to walk without her walker (something she has now done twice and has left her with a fractured hip).*

CONNECTION TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: If the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted you or your loved one negatively in terms of health, access to long term services/supports or otherwise, then be sure to share this.

- *Ex: Since school is out due to the Coronavirus crisis, the burden of caregiving for both my mother and daughter is even worse. I cannot watch out for my mom and also help my daughter study. I worry that she is falling behind in school.*

CONCLUDE WITH YOUR ASK: Reiterate your most important message and make the ask.

- *Ex. Thus, I made time today to join this important conversation and to tell my story to ask your support for the creation of a universal long term services and supports social insurance program for all Californians. Can we count on your support for this?*

LISTEN: Listen to the responses to your request.

THANK YOU: Thank them again for their time at the end of your meeting.