

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

THERESA RIFFEY, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

No.: 10-cv-02477

GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER,
in his official capacity as Governor of
the State of Illinois; and SEIU
HEALTHCARE ILLINOIS & INDIANA,

Judge: Honorable Manish S. Shah

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF RICHARD STOWELL

Richard Stowell hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a home care worker in the State of Illinois' Home Services Program. I am 62 years old and live in Chicago, Illinois.
2. I have been working in the Home Services Program since about 2008. I became a home care worker after my son was in an accident that left him quadriplegic in 2002. I was able to take time off to care for my son, and I learned a great deal about providing care by working alongside home care workers we would hire, and by performing those tasks when other workers were not there. Since my family and I found out about the Home Services Program, my son has moved out and has live-in home care workers. I provide care for my son on occasion and for another client. The types of care I provide include: bathing, toileting, dressing, feeding, light housekeeping, and wound care when necessary. I escort my client to work and assist him with his lunch, and I administer medication when necessary.

3. When I began working in the Home Services Program, I knew that the State automatically deducted fair-share fees from my wages to support my union representative, SEIU Healthcare Illinois & Indiana (“Union” or “SEIU HCII”), but I did not think about the Union at all. I come from a family of union activists, and so I had no objection to providing financial support for the Union. I believe that a strong union representative is necessary if home care workers are to be treated with the dignity and respect that we deserve. I believe that a strong union of home care workers is necessary to ensure consumers have the best caregivers.

4. In my experience helping my son hire home care workers, I have seen how the better wages and opportunities for paid training won and provided by the Union have led to more well-qualified workers entering and staying in the profession. Home care work requires a great deal of trust, and home care workers provide care in very intimate settings. A strong union helps keep well-qualified workers in the profession, which in my experience improves the quality of care. One of my son’s current home care workers has a college degree, and I believe that if the wages were what they were when I first became a home care worker, she would likely have left for a better paying job. I believe that all home care workers should pay their fair share to support the Union because all home care workers benefit from the Union’s activities.

5. Since joining the Union as a member, I have been on the bargaining committee twice, and have seen our wages increase dramatically up to our current pay of \$13/hour. Our current contract also provides for the State to pay into a health benefits fund and for training. I do not believe there is any way that home care workers would have achieved this without a strong Union or that we will be able to continue to improve the status of home care workers without a strong Union. In addition to the benefits of our contract, the Union has also given me the opportunity to participate in local and national politics. We have been able to take action to

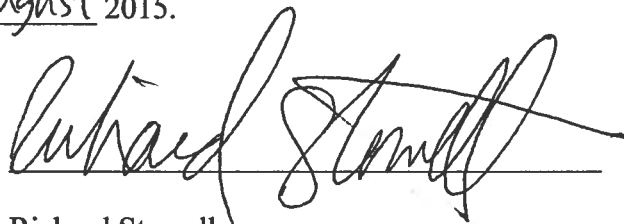
support important causes, including preserving and increasing funding for the Home Services Program that my son benefits from, as well as national fights for Medicaid, Medicare and also to support affordable child care.

6. When I first started working in the Home Services Program I was not familiar with everything our Union does and with the importance of becoming a Union member. After a couple of years working in the Program, a Union member volunteer came to my house in about 2010 and he told me about the Union and how I could get involved. I signed up on the spot and have remained an active member ever since. The Union has given me an opportunity to be involved in causes that are important to me and my family.

7. I do not support the Harris v. Quinn lawsuit or the goal of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund to weaken our Union. The named plaintiffs do not represent me and do not speak for me. I believe that the named plaintiffs do not fully understand what the Union has done for them and for all home care workers working in the Home Services Program.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 4th day of August 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Stowell", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Stowell