March 2021

Dear Hon. Christine Elliott (Ontario Minister of Health) christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Dear Hon. Merrilee Fullerton (Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care) merrilee.fullerton@ontario.ca

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name and email address of local MPP)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student’s name). I am a PSW student at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (school name and location).

I am writing today to let you know that I heard about the free tuition and paid PSW placements at community college programs. I found out that this does not apply to the school board programs. I feel this is highly unfair. This program is providing me with the knowledge and skill sets to provide safe and competent care as a PSW.

I am asking for the government to also provide school board PSW programs with the same benefits – free material fees and paid placements.

I know that our healthcare services are in desperate need of highly qualified and certified PSWs, which come from all the recognized training organizations, including school board programs. The decision you have made to give colleges an advantage will only reduce the number of PSWs that graduate from programs and enter into the workforce. People will stop applying to school boards and try to get into colleges, many of which are not in areas where school board programs directly service the need for LTC homes and agencies. This action does not solve the problem of increasing the number of PSWs to help during this health crisis or after it passes.

Again, I ask that you provide school boards with the same benefits you have given colleges – free fees and paid placements. Thank you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student’s signature)