

Lorna Barrows  
131 Little Deer Road,  
Bridgeport, CT 06606  
(914)295-4943  
Labarrows@yahoo.com

Via Email: LABTestimony@cga.ct.gov

March 11, 2014

Sen. Gary Holder-Winfield  
Rep. Peter Tercyak  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sen. Holder-Winfield and Rep. Tercyak:

My name is Lorna Barrows. I was born and raised in Jamaica. I came here to Bridgeport in 2000 and have worked as a nanny ever since. I have had three nanny jobs during this time. My first job was as a live-in nanny in Westport. I arrived on a Tuesday morning and was supposed to leave on Saturday. This never happened because the parents went out every Saturday and came back early Sunday morning. For this additional work I was never paid any overtime. At this particular time I was undocumented and did not think I had a voice to assert my rights.

I currently work as a nanny in Westport for a different family. I take care of two children, a girl who is seven and a boy who is five. I love these children because I have been taking care of them for five years. I have a written job description that explains my duties for my current position. It states that I am responsible for the well-being of these children from 8 to 6. The duties include taking the children to school and to their extracurricular activities. The job description contains a definition of light housework. Having a written job description keeps my employer and me on the same page.

As I mentioned above, I drive these children to and from their activities in Westport. Initially, I was not being compensated for the gas. The written job description does not specify if I will be reimbursed. This is where I feel I am abused in my current position. I told my employer that I needed to be paid for gas. He just gave me whatever he felt like giving me. After a while, every week I asked him for gas money. Then finally, he started to give me \$20 every other week. This arrangement costs me more than I am being compensated for. It would have been helpful to have this arrangement spelled out in a contract when I first started.

Based on my experience, as a nanny, I believe there should be a guideline for employers and employees. Something that will make each person feel comfortable that they are not being exploited. I believe that all live-in domestic workers should be paid overtime. This is why I ask you to support the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.

Sincerely,

Lorna Barrows

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorna Barrows". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.