



**Written Public Hearing Testimony of
Sharon Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 18, 2014**

Good Morning Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley and Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5527, AAC A Domestic Workers Bill of Rights**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

I support the concept of this bill to the extent that it seeks to safeguard the rights of domestic workers. However, the bill as currently drafted is extremely broad. It will require the Department to expend significant resources, which are not presently available and has significant impact on the application creating substantive rights that deserve more study. We simply do not have enough information to support proposing such a bill at this time.

In addition, this proposed bill contains language that addresses concerns raised in other proposed legislation for home health care workers. We hope to discuss similar language concerns with the proponent of that proposal. Finally, but no less important, please be aware that implementing the remedies provided in this proposed bill will require the Department to expend significant resources, which are not presently available.

Therefore, the Department supports efforts to ensure safe and appropriate working conditions for domestic workers, but we believe that a study of the current conditions across the industry in order to more directly address issues that exist is a better place to start. We are interested in participating in such a study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.