Connecticut Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights

All workers deserve protection under labor laws

Bridgeport, CT Brazilian Immigrant Center Inc.

COMMUNITY LETTER OF SUPPORT

Domestic workers are housecleaners, nannies and caregivers that work within their employer's household. Over 60,000 domestic workers in the state of Connecticut enable their employers to pursue professions that contribute to the health of Connecticut's economy. Domestic work has long been perceived as outside the traditional workforce because domestic workers are typically women, often immigrants, who do the work that has historically been performed by housewives and servants. Due to the nature of domestic work, domestic workers are isolated from the workforce and are subjected to round-the-clock physically demanding labor, often with little or no clear separation between work and personal time.

The domestic service industry was intentionally excluded from federal labor laws. A Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in Connecticut will establish labor standards and oversight that protect domestic workers' basic workplace rights, including safe and healthy working conditions, meal and rest breaks, unemployment benefits, sick time to care for themselves and their families and protection in the event of discrimination and sexual harassment.

By passing a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in Connecticut, both the domestic worker and her employer benefit. A DWBOR ensures the highest quality of care for families and homes by affording domestic workers dignity and respect and by reducing turnover and providing greater stability for workers and the families for whom they work.

A DWBOR provides domestic workers with a safe and dignified work environment and provides employers with clear guidelines on their responsibilities.

Other states that have passed a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights include New York in 2010 and California and Hawaii in 2013. DWBORs that are pending in other states include Illinois, Oregon, and Massachusetts.

We support a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights and ask our state legislators to do the same in Connecticut.

Name of Organization CENTER for YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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