



Connecticut Students for a DREAM
Empower. Educate. Advocate.

February 16, 2015

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

REGARDING: Testimony in Support of the Connecticut Domestic Workers Rights Bill

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Connecticut Students for a Dream is a statewide network of undocumented youth and allies that seek to fight for the rights of undocumented families in Connecticut. We seek to empower our members through community organizing, leadership development, and advocacy.

Domestic workers are housecleaners, nannies and caregivers that work within their employer's household. Most importantly, domestic workers are many of our hard-working parents. Over 40,000 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 (DWBOR) 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.

As an organization, we urge you to support The CT Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, S.B. 446.

Thank you!

Connecticut Students for a Dream.