



Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Proposed Senate Bill No. 446  
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Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls, and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives. For 40 years, CWEALF has provided information, referral, and support to women seeking guidance about issues involving family law, employment discrimination, education, and civil rights. As a women's right organization that advocates for fair workplace laws and serves many Connecticut women with little money, resources, or power, we urge your support of Proposed Senate Bill 446; *An Act Concerning the Definition of the Term "Domestic Worker."*

Domestic workers serve families as private housekeepers and caregivers to children and elderly dependents. The services that domestic workers provide promote healthy living within families and allow parents or guardians to remain productive in the workforce, thus making domestic workers essential to the state of Connecticut.

Shockingly, despite their contributions to the state's economy, domestic workers are not protected under current federal and state labor laws. For example, their employers are not required to pay them minimum wage, they cannot collect overtime pay, they cannot earn paid sick days, and they are not protected by anti-discrimination laws. There are approximately 40,000 domestic workers throughout Connecticut; many of whom are immigrant women and are vulnerable to mistreatment.

By excluding domestic workers from Connecticut's current labor laws, the state creates a subclass of employees whose contributions are undervalued, and left vulnerable to discrimination and unfair treatment. If enacted, Senate Bill 446 would ensure that domestic workers receive the rights to which they are entitled. Thank you for your time and consideration.