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February 16, 2015

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Esteemed Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Mary Medina, I have lived in the United States for 6 years. For 2 years I have worked as a nanny for a family. At first, they offered me a weekly salary, with the condition that some days I would leave early and others I'd be leaving later, but they gave me no stability when it came to how many hours I would work. I accepted, because I was in need of work. Over the next few months, when they saw that my work was good, they began paying me by the hour. Still there was no stability when it came to when and how long I would work. I had no sick days, no vacation time, and never a bonus.

They later moved to a bigger house, farther away. I continued working, with the added responsibility of cleaning the house, but no change in wage. If they didn't need me to come in they would only tell me the night before or the morning of. I have a son, born here, who is four-years-old and bills to pay. I need more security, and to make sure I am paid for the work I do. The state of Connecticut needs laws that protect workers like me. We are being exploited and face much hardship.

Please pass S.B. 446- An Act Concerning a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights and restore dignity to our work.

Sincerely,

Mary Medina