February 16, 2015

Sen. Gary Winfield
Rep. Peter Tercyak
Domestic Worker Taskforce
Room 3800, Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Winfield and Representative Tercyak and esteemed members of the Committee:

My name is Mitsou Pun, and I am a long time resident of Connecticut. I was Certified Nurses Assistant (C.N.A.) for four years and half in a nursing home in Pennsylvania. This is physically demanding work-- taking care of the elderly. One day I carried and placed an elderly patient in her bed. She moved her body in the opposite direction and created extra stress and strain on my body. In order to protect her from falling, I absorbed this extra stress on my back and suffered an injury. As a result, it injured my spine and caused a pinch nerve and sciatica. I had to stop working and had to go to doctors, acupuncturists, chiropractors and other medical practitioners to restore my health I was on disability for two years and have sustained a permanent injury to body as a result of this work. My work as a CNA is very similar to that of a caregiver for the elderly working in a private home.

I know that most domestic workers do not have right to disability and would not be able to have the medical care that I received. Caring for the elderly is very demanding and strenuous, and it requires care for the person but also can cause bodily injury to the caregiver.

I just wanted to share my story so that you could be aware of the need for greater labor protections for domestic workers in Connecticut, including the right to workers compensation if they are injured on the job. Most domestic workers work out of a sense of care, duty and love for their clients/consumers.

Thank you for considering my story. I ask you to please pass Senate Bill 446- Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.

Sincerely,

Mitsou Pun

Mitsou Pun
36 Rose Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610
(203) 722-1460
mitsoumitch@netzero.net