

# United Action Connecticut

organized interfaith communities and civic institutions  
building a better future

March 8, 2016

**TO:** Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Mark Kosnoff, I am Executive Director of United Action Connecticut, a faith based community organization that has member congregations throughout the State, and I am a resident of Meriden. I am writing to express my support for S.B. No. 393, "An Act Concerning Domestic Workers."

Until recently domestic workers, or home health care workers or personal care assistants, whatever name is applied to these individuals, have been viewed as outside the traditional workforce and not been given the same rights or protections as all other workers. I find this morally and ethically wrong. These individuals are providing a service that often are indispensable to those they are working for and therefore should receive the proper compensation and rights as any other line of work.

If people were doing the work that domestic workers provide in more traditional settings such as convalescent homes, hospitals or day care centers they would certainly enjoy the benefits of job safety, wage and hour standards, and protections against discrimination, including sexual harassment. Several other states, including New York, California, Massachusetts, Hawaii and Oregon recognize that fact and have enacted a Bill of Rights for Domestic Workers. It is time for Connecticut to do the same.

S.B. 393 would ensure that domestic workers have the right to receive a clear job description, earn overtime pay for hours worked beyond the regular work week, an opportunity to accrue paid leave, receive 24 hours off for every 7 day work week, receive written notice prior to termination or be compensated accordingly, have the right to safe working conditions and the ability to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner for violations of their rights. These are standard rights for most all Connecticut employees. Why should domestic workers be treated any differently? I, nor anyone else in my organization believes they should not have these rights.

Please consider S.B. No. 393. The provisions in this bill are standard rights for most all other workers in our State and it is high time that we do the just act and ensure that domestic workers have those same rights.

Respectfully submitted,