



*Communications
Workers of America*

*The Connecticut Union
of
Telephone Workers, Inc.*



Local 1298
AFL-CIO

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In Support of **HB 5426**

AN ACT CONCERNING LIENS FOR UNPAID WAGES AND A REQUIREMENT THAT FISCAL INTERMEDIARIES MEET EMPLOYER TIMELY PAY OBLIGATIONS.

March 10, 2020

Good morning Senator Kasser, Representative Lopes, and the members of the Banking Committee. My name is James Case, a member of CWA local 1298, and a resident of Higganum. I am testifying in favor of **HB 5426**, AN ACT CONCERNING LIENS FOR UNPAID WAGES AND A REQUIREMENT THAT FISCAL INTERMEDIARIES MEET EMPLOYER TIMELY PAY OBLIGATIONS. Many of us at CWA local 1298 have elderly or disabled friends and family that rely on these workers. I am in support of this bill because Personal Care Attendants, also known as home care workers, are some of the most important employees in the State, and yet some of the most vulnerable.

Home care workers take care of our residents, family members, and loved ones that have the most need; those with physical or intellectual disabilities. These workers are predominantly female, and predominantly people of color. One in six home care workers live below the federal poverty level and have limited power to challenge unlawful working conditions or wage theft. This bill will give them the tools to successfully retain the rights and wages they sorely need. Under current law, these essential workers do not have those tools and subsequently suffer the conditions I spoke of prior. Allied Community Resources, a fiscal intermediary contracted by DSS, has stated that more than 6,000 timecards between July 2018 and June 2019 were processed after the scheduled payday. Some of these workers never get paid at all.

Section 1 would give the workers the tools to leverage fairness and timely pay. Section 2 would make fiscal intermediaries like Allied Community Resources follow the same laws as true employers do. In lieu of these issues, it is imperative that **HB 5426** be supported and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Case