



**Testimony of Ann Pratt, CT Citizen Action Group
Banking and Finance Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

In Support of HB 5426: An Act Concerning Liens for Unpaid Wages and a Requirement That Fiscal Intermediaries Meeting Employer Timely Pay Obligations

To Senator Kasser, Representative Lopes and distinguished members of the Banking Committee:

My name is Ann Pratt, Director Organizing at the CT Citizen Action Group, a statewide organization committed to a more just and equitable society. On behalf of the thousands of members across the state, we urge you to pass HB 5426: **An Act Concerning Liens for Unpaid Wages and a Requirement That Fiscal Intermediaries Meeting Employer Timely Pay Obligations.**

HB 5426 takes an important step towards addressing racial and economic injustice that exists within this state. The fact that 90% of homecare providers are women, and most likely majority are people of color caring for low income consumers- and the intermediary agency responsible for this service – Allied Community Resources is not held to account for timely payments to these workers is immoral and unjust. This legislation would make sure that these intermediaries pay workers on time and are held accountable to the same wage and hour laws that employers currently have to abide by.

Home care workers in Connecticut provide invaluable support to the elderly, disabled and infirm people within our state. The fact that – in return for these invaluable services and support to Connecticut residents- they do not receive timely payment and need to fight these intermediary entities to receive their pay is unjust and unacceptable. According to a study conducted by SEIU 1199NE, in a survey of over 900 homecare providers, 75% reported that they experienced a pay problem at least once over the past six months. This is wage theft, and the results of this survey- and the stories told by the injustice perpetrated by these intermediaries should compel this committee to take immediate action to fix this broken system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of HB 5426.

**Ann Pratt
Connecticut Citizen Action Group**

CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP

Putting People First