

Committee on Labor & Public Employees

Public Testimony of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
Proposed Bill H.B. No. 6931: *An Act Concerning Domestic Workers*
Submitted by: Madeline Granato, Policy Manager and Camden Weber, Legal Intern
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The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is a statewide non-profit organization that advocates for and empowers women and girls, especially those who are underserved or marginalized. For forty-five years, CWEALF has been a leading advocate of policy solutions that enhance women's economic security and combat discrimination.

As an organization dedicated to uplifting the economic security of women and their families, CWEALF supports H.B. 6931 to expand application of various labor laws to Connecticut's estimated 40,000 domestic workers.¹

According to research conducted by the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Connecticut domestic workers are primarily immigrant women who work in private households and are their family's primary income earner. Domestic workers in Connecticut are currently excluded from various state labor laws and therefore vulnerable to discrimination and unfair treatment.

House Bill No. 6931 will correct the current gap in labor laws and will require the minimum fair wage to apply to domestic workers, expand workers compensation coverage to domestic workers who work fifteen hours or more per week, and require employers to provide paid sick leave to domestic workers regardless of the number of employees. House Bill No. 6931 also adds domestic workers to the definition of "employees," which receive the protections afforded by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). By providing domestic workers with essential protection under the law and fair wages, they will have greater financial security and commitment to their jobs.

Connecticut's domestic workers make important contributions to both our economy and the health and stability of Connecticut's families. Domestic workers should not be forced to choose between earning a living and fair and humane treatment enjoyed by the rest of Connecticut's workforce.

We urge the Committee to support H.B. 6931. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ <https://www.domesticworkers.org/bill-of-rights/connecticut%E2%80%8B>