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Betsy Butler

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Chair, Senate Labor Committee
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1257 (Durazo) – Support

Dear Senator Hill,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 1257 which would eliminate the exclusion of "household domestic service" from California's occupational health and safety protections.

Over 300,000 people in California work as housekeepers, nannies, and caregivers in private homes. Nearly two million households in California rely on these domestic workers to care for their homes and loved ones. The majority of domestic workers are immigrant women who typically earn very low wages. They are uniquely vulnerable to workplace violations, because they often work without written employment agreements or basic information about their rights. Many workplace violations go unreported because workers fear retaliation or termination.

Domestic workers historically have been categorically excluded from basic labor protections, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act. As a result, their health and safety are at risk. For example, during the recent wildfires in California, employers asked domestic workers to stay behind to help fight fires, guard homes and pets, and clean toxic ash from homes. These conditions and requests are unacceptable, and domestic workers should not be excluded from the workplace safety protections in the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We prioritize equal treatment and safety for all women in the workplace, regardless of their income, race, or immigrant status.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 1257.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director

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