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Betsy Butler

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Senator Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Labor Committee
State Capitol, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 321 (Cortese) - Support

Dear Senator Cortese,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 321 which would eliminate the exclusion of "household domestic service" from California's Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) protections. SB 321 would also require Cal/OSHA to convene an advisory committee to develop industry-specific regulations.

In California, there are over 300,000 domestic workers who work as housekeepers, nannies, and caregivers, and who are predominately women and people of color. At present, there are two million households that rely on domestic workers to care for their homes and loved ones—a number that will increase by more than 50% by 2022. Currently, California law fails to recognize domestic work as real work which has left domestic service workers vulnerable to workplace injuries and illness, with little recourse.

The pandemic has further exposed the devastating effects these failures have had on domestic workers in California, 75% of whom are immigrant women of color. Domestic workers have continuously exposed themselves to COVID-19 without workplace protections, putting their lives, families and communities at risk.

Domestic workers have been frontline and essential workers during the pandemic and they provide care to California's most vulnerable citizens including seniors, the disabled, and people with compromised immune systems. Domestic workers have long hours and low wages, often without health care or paid sick days. Many are seniors themselves who have their own health challenges.

CWLC's mission is to create a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We prioritize fair and safe working conditions for all people, especially women and immigrant populations.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 321.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director

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