

## **Appropriations Committee – Public Hearing**

**February 19, 2021**

### **Testimony of Florecianda Montenegro**

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

#### **AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS WAGE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT BILL**

Good afternoon, Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am here today to speak in support of An Act Concerning Domestic Workers Wage Education and Enforcement Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Florecianda Montenegro, I live in Bridgeport CT. I am a proud mother of a 15-year-old boy, and I came to this country 19 years ago full of many hopes for a better future for me and my family.

Since I arrived in this country, I have dedicated myself to work as a nanny with different families in the Fairfield County area. Many of those families were people who only took advantage of my need to work since not having a law that regulates this decent work or a place to turn for help, I had no choice but to endure the injustices and abuses because I have family to support. I have been affected by the pandemic, losing my Nanny job in March 2020, and I was never recognized with any unemployment benefit as a worker does normally. I have had to turn to the charity of the churches in search of food for my family. I am currently dedicating myself to cleaning houses and caring for the elderly being now an essential worker putting my health and my family at risk since I do not have the privilege of not working, because I live from paycheck to paycheck.

I ask you, the authorities to advocate for us domestic workers. We need to have a law that reinforces and regulates our dignified work. We are hard working mothers, and as heads of the family, we deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

I personally ask you to support this Act concerning Domestic Workers Wage Education and Enforcement Bill.

God bless you

Thank you!!

FLORECIENDA MONTENEGRO