



STATE SENATOR  
**CHARLETA B. TAVARES**

15<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares**  
**Senate Bill 14**  
**Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

Good afternoon, Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 14 that will establish rights for domestic workers. A domestic worker is a person employed in a home or residence for the purpose of caring for a child; serving as a companion for a sick, convalescing, or elderly person; housekeeping; or for any other domestic service purpose.

This bill will require that domestic workers be paid the minimum wage, be paid overtime wages, make certain conduct directed towards them an

unlawful, discriminatory practice and require a weekly day of rest for domestic workers.

Domestic workers are excluded from the protections of current Federal Law. As of today eight states, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Nevada, have passed legislation to protect the rights of these men and women. Ohio has the opportunity to join these states and be among the first in passing legislation that protects domestic workers.

Without this legislation domestic workers can be abused and exploited because they are behind closed and private doors. These abuses can include: contract substitution, poor wages, non-payment or delayed payment of wages, very long hours of work, no break periods or rest days, restrictions on freedom of movement and association, no access to

collective bargaining, inadequate food and accommodation, including lack of privacy, as well as, sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>1</sup>

Not only is there a lack of regulation for this sector, we are also devaluing the economic and social contributions of domestic work to economic and workforce development. Domestic workers contribute by way of their labor and skills to sustaining the health and safety of older adults and individuals with developmental disabilities; tending to the education, health and support of infants and children; and improving the function, safety and cleanliness of employer households, which is especially important where there is a scarcity of workers. They also provide employers with supplemental time to engage in “productive” activity or “leisure” and enhance their economic and social well-being.<sup>2</sup>

Chairman LaRose and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this important issue and I respectfully request your favorable

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<sup>1</sup> Domestic Workers Count Too: Implementing Protections for Domestic Workers

<sup>2</sup> Id.

consideration and passage of Senate Bill 14. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.