



State Senator
TINA MAHARATH

3rd District

Sponsor Testimony
Senator Tina Maharath
Senate Bill 93
General Government and Agency Review Committee
Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Good afternoon, Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member O'Brien, Vice Chair Rulli and members of the General Government and Agency Review Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 93 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 or elderly person; housekeeping; or for any other domestic service purpose. In-home workers—those whose worksites are private homes—are critical to the U.S. economy.

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 are 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.

Not only is there a lack of regulation for this sector, we are also devaluing the 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.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 93. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.