

Labor and Public Employees Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1428

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE DOMESTIC WORKERS

Title: EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/13/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.: 294

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to provide \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 of additional funding to educate and train domestic workers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tatiana Bejar, Director of Local Organizing Programs at the National Domestic Workers Alliance and coordinator of the Connecticut Domestic Workers Justice

Coalition: Supports the bill. States that funding the program is essential to ensuring that all domestic workers in the state know their rights under the law and how to report labor rights abuses. Adding that robust outreach efforts by community organizations that are already trusted is the best way to improve the working conditions of domestic workers. States the success of this program and similar ones in other states shows that it should be expanded in CT. Adding that through this partnership, organizations have provided on-the-ground outreach and education, assisting domestic workers in accessing their new rights, employers complying with their new responsibilities, and supporting workers whose rights have been violated to access remedies.

Nelli Jara, Executive Director of Connecticut Worker Center and Connecticut Domestic Workers Justice Coalition: Supports the bill. States that passing the bill will ensure that

domestic workers' rights are fully realized, and that employers have the information needed to comply with the law. Adding that through the partnership organizations have provided much needed education about legal rights and legal access to domestic workers. Urges the passage of the bill to continue and strengthen the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic workers just they support their family.

Rodrigo Nino, Community Organizer and member of organization Comunidades Sin Fronteras: Supports the bill. States that passing the bill will ensure the rights of domestic workers in Connecticut. Adding that even with new laws, many workers still do not know their rights or how to enforce them. Through this partnership, the organizations have carried out outreach activities on the ground, helping domestic workers understand their new rights and employers understand their new responsibilities, as well as supporting workers whose rights have been violated to access other remedies.

Elza Monteiro, Portuguese Worker Leader at Connecticut Worker Center: Supports the bill. States that Know your rights education in the Portuguese speaking community is important and that they are astounded when they do outreach at how many people don't know what the minimum wage is. Adding that most domestic workers are paid a lot less than the \$16.35 minimum. This lack of knowledge helps employers to keep modern slavery going, also helps employers putting fear into the employees. Add they need the funding to continue the KNOW YOUR RIGHTS education.

Zenia Castillo, domestic worker, member Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT: Supports the bill. States they benefited from education from the program, where they learned their rights, but there are still many workers who do not know their rights or how to enforce them. Urges the passage of the bill to continue and strengthen the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic workers just they support their family.

Carmen Lanche, Director of the Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT: Supports the bill. States the union represents thousands of domestic workers and employers across CT. Adding that passing this act, our elected officials will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding that expanding educational activities decreases the overall number of wage theft violations and can level the conditions for domestic workers through education is very important because it helps them receive a decent salary for their work. States this bill will help to continue the implementation and education of both domestic workers and employers.

Karime Pimmentel, Lead Organizer of Connecticut Domestic Workers Justice Coalition: Supports the bill. States they represent thousands of domestic workers and employers across our state, mostly immigrant women of color. States passing this act will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding there are over 35,000 domestic workers in Connecticut, who have celebrated many transformative wins over the past decade, but many still do not know their rights or how to enforce them. States that through this partnership, organizations have provided on-the-ground outreach, assisting

domestic workers in understanding their new rights, and urges the continuation and expansion of the existing programs and strengthening the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services, and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic Workers just as they support families, homes, and loved ones across Connecticut.

Patricia Zavaleta, Member of Connecticut Worker Center: Supports the bill. States that by passing the bill CT will ensure that domestic workers' rights are fully realized, and that employers will have the information they need to comply with the law. Adding it is important to know about your rights, so you are not exposed to labor abuse or wage theft. States a history of unfair labor conditions including a workplace injury where the employer refused to pay, and another time when an employer refused to pay an agreed upon pay. States they were taken advantage of because they didn't know their rights and wants others to know theirs.

Jenny Canepa, Member CT Worker Center: Supports the bill. States the union represents thousands of domestic workers and employers across CT. Adding that passing by this act, our elected officials will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding that expanding educational activities has decreased the overall number of wage theft violations, and they want more people informed of their rights to protect themselves from exploitation. Urges support so they can continue to support families across the state.

Silvia Salinas, Workers and Community Advocate Connecticut Workers Center: Supports the bill. States they represent thousands of domestic workers and employers across our state, mostly immigrant women of color. States passing this act will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding there are over 35,000 domestic workers in Connecticut, who have celebrated many transformative wins over the past decade, but many still do not know their rights or how to enforce them. States that through this partnership, organizations have provided on-the-ground outreach, assisting domestic workers in understanding their new rights, and urges the continuation and expansion of the existing programs and strengthening the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services, and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic Workers just as they support families, homes, and loved ones across Connecticut.

Oneyda Cayetano, Member Connecticut Worker Center: Supports the bill. States that by passing this act, our elected officials will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. States they have suffered wage theft as well as other labor violations from one employer. Adding that one day they could not afford food so they went to a food bank where they connected to Connecticut Worker Center who helped them with many of her issues. Urges passage of bill so more people can get help like her.

Margaret Henderson, Board President of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, member of Connecticut for All: Supports the bill. Urges passage of bill, saying These employees are mostly women, mostly immigrants of color, who provide services in the homes of those who can afford to hire them. They clean houses, or provide care and support

for children, elderly relatives, or people with disabilities. States that as some of society's least empowered people, they are often victims of wage theft, they are forced to work overtime without pay or if they aren't given Paid Sick Leave when they're eligible for it, they often don't have any recourse. States the bill will help get the word out that domestic workers are subject to the wage and hour laws, and help hire enough employees to enforce the law, this bill will help ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have all the information they need to comply with the law. Adding that if we want equity, we must provide funding for worker protections.

Mark Kosnoff, Executive Director of United Action Connecticut: Supports the bill. States they represent thousands of domestic workers and employers across our state, mostly immigrant women of color. States passing this act will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding there are over 35,000 domestic workers in Connecticut, who have celebrated many transformative wins over the past decade, but many still do not know their rights or how to enforce them. States that through this partnership, organizations have provided on-the-ground outreach, assisting domestic workers in understanding their new rights, and urges the continuation and expansion of the existing programs and strengthening the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services, and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic Workers just as they support families, homes, and loved ones across Connecticut.

Beatriz Moncada, domestic worker, member Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT: Supports the bill. States the union represents thousands of domestic workers and employers across CT. Adding that passing this act, our elected officials will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding that expanding educational activities decreases the overall number of wage theft violations and can level the conditions for domestic workers through education is very important because it helps them receive a decent salary for their work. States this bill will help to continue the implementation and education of both domestic workers and employers.

Judith Paz domestic worker, member Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT: Supports the bill. States the union represents thousands of domestic workers and employers across CT. Adding that passing this act, our elected officials will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding that expanding educational activities decreases the overall number of wage theft violations and can level the conditions for domestic workers through education is very important because it helps them receive a decent salary for their work. States this bill will help to continue the implementation and education of both domestic workers and employers.

Rosa Rodriguez, Worker leader Connecticut Workers Center: Supports the bill. States they represent thousands of domestic workers and employers across our state, mostly immigrant women of color. States passing this act will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have the information they need to comply with their obligations under the law. Adding Domestic workers have celebrated many transformative wins over the past decade, but many still do not know their rights or how to enforce them.

States that through this partnership, organizations have provided on-the-ground outreach, assisting domestic workers in understanding their new rights, and urges the continuation and expansion of the existing programs and strengthening the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services, and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave. Adding they need the state to support Domestic Workers across Connecticut.

Florencia Montenegro, Educator for Know Your Rights Education Program at Connecticut Worker Center: Supports the bill. States that the program has been essential for empowering workers and their families in knowing their labor rights and asks for continued support. Adding passing the bill ensure that domestic workers' rights are fully realized and that employers have the information they need to comply with the law. That through the program they have been able to give hundreds of workers access to information has helped them improve their working conditions and urges the continuation and expansion of the existing programs and strengthening the collaboration with the CTDOL in outreach and education, support investigation of rights abuses, create referrals to legal services, and broaden enforcement of Paid Sick Leave.

Josette Stewart, domestic worker Connecticut Worker: Supports the bill. States they have worked as a home care worker that didn't receive wages or overtime from working long shifts. States the DOL has helped but the case wasn't resolved and has a lawyer trying to help get back wages. Urges to support for the bill stating it will ensure that domestic workers' rights in CT are fully realized, and that employers have the information they need to comply with the law.

Karime Pimentel, Naugatuck Valley Project, affiliates of the National Domestic Workers Alliance for the State of CT: Supports the bill. States they are a non-profit community organization that since 1983 has been developing rights advocacy work for the community and has carried out educational work not only for domestic workers, but also the employers of domestic workers, so both sides are aware of the law. States the history of funding for their work and that they need a more stable solution to continue their work to educate and expand outreach in our communities.

Dr Linda Dalessio: Supports the bill on the condition that the bill should be amended so funds are only used for American Citizens.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided.

Reported by: Ian Graves

Date: 3/26/2025