

February 25, 2020

Sen. Kushner, Rep. Porter, Sen. Osten, Rep. Hall, Sen. Miner, Rep. Polletta and the honorable members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

As chair of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, I am writing to express the Council's support of **HB 5276 An Act Concerning Domestic Workers**.

Upon taking office in January 2019, one of our administration's first actions was to form the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, comprised of the Governor's cabinet members, representatives from each of the other constitutional offices and representatives from each of the four major legislative caucuses. The mission of the council is to provide a coordinated state response to issues that impact the lives of women, girls, their families, and the State of Connecticut. The council is charged with focusing on four areas of impact, each represented by its own subcommittee: education and STEAM; economic opportunity and workforce equity; leadership; and health and safety. The council, through its subcommittees, works with an over 100 organization Steering Committee of organizations that voluntarily dedicate their time to support council priorities and assist us in our work to make equality and advancement for women and girls a true state-wide effort.

The Council on Women and Girls is supporting this legislation because it is important that domestic workers, the majority of whom are believed to be women, are entitled to greater employment protections. The lack of domestic worker employer requirements allows for potentially unsafe and unfair working conditions.

This bill requires employers of domestic workers to disclose information about working conditions and grants to domestic workers certain privacy protections, the ability to raise health concerns relating to cleaning products and protection from retaliation. It also allows domestic workers to bring actions regarding alleged employer violations to Superior Court. This bill is important to protecting the health, safety and security of domestic workers and is a critical step in creating a more equitable workforce in our state.

The members of the Council on Women and Girls and I are committed to working with the Labor and Public Employees Committee to further advance this bill. We are looking forward to partnering with you in these efforts.

Thank you,

Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor
State of Connecticut