



CONNECTICUT CATHOLIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105-3784

Testimony on Proposed H.B. 6931

CHRISTOPHER C. HEALY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEACON DAVID W. REYNOLDS
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FOR PUBLIC POLICY
ANNE S. LAMONICA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FOR EDUCATION
LORI A. STEWART
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS
By Deacon David Reynolds
Associate Director of Public Policy

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Public Hearing
February 21, 2019
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

The Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference is the public policy and advocacy organization representing the Catholic bishops in Connecticut. The Conference urges the members of the committee to support proposed H.B. 6931, "An Act Concerning Domestic Workers." As the employment of domestic workers - to provide elder care, child care, and homemaker services - has increased, the laws protecting this class of workers have lagged behind. The Conference is especially concerned that, as our population ages, the demand for elder care at home will continue to increase. The provisions of this bill will hopefully increase the quality and abilities of the people willing to provide these services.

The Catholic Church has long taught that "all people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions, as well as to organize and join unions or other associations."¹ This proposed legislation is an effort to give workers dignity and the protections they deserve as human beings through fair wages, better working conditions, and legal protections.

The Conference believes that passage of this legislation will address a group of workers in our communities that has for too long been neglected, and in some instances mistreated by employers. Their dignity as not only workers, but as contributing members of our society must be respected. H.B. 6931 is a strong first step in accomplishing that goal.

¹ (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *A Catholic Framework for Economic Life*, no. 5)