

Domestic Workers Workgroup

Summary Session Notes

November 30, 2021

Work Group Attendees

- Sylvia Gonzalez
- Joe Kendo
- Dana Barnett
- Kasey Bowen
- Puja Dhawan
- Margaret Diddams

Introduction

Quick introduction to the supplemental documents. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action Items:

- Ask work group members to identify states they are interested in learning more about

Testimonials

Domestic Worker 1 – I was cleaning a home, alone, when I slipped and fell in the bathtub injuring my hip, left shoulder and arm. I was scared, a lot came to mind; do I tell my employer, will I be able to get myself up; will my employer believe me or think that I am trying to take advantage of them. I was also afraid of losing my job and income for months. I was only doing work part time and had other work to fall back on but that is not always the option. There is also fear that if you leave a job due to an injury it won't be there when you come back. Some employers are kind and will listen but that is not always the case.

Domestic Worker 2 – I was injured at work, my employer didn't believe me. I had to pay the bills and all my expenses. I spent 3 months, if not more than that, out of work. That is why I am asking for your support for all domestic workers and day laborers. There are many families that are suffering due to not having income when we cannot work. When we cannot work and fighting for our rights. We clean your homes and make sure you're happy with us and our employer. Thank you for listening to me.

Domestic Employer 1 - Hand in Hand, a domestic workers organization. We support employers with resources to have. We also organize domestic workers right campaigns. I can share anecdotally but we don't know what happens in homes like workers. The legislature needs to hear more of these. Like I said, we work with thousands of domestic workers and employers and find that employers are extremely supportive of helping those they employ. In most cases, its education and resources -- people don't have HR in their homes. I think that employers don't necessary have the resources to be proactive. Laws needs to be easy to understand and mandatory. Employers aren't going to do it unless it's clear.

Work Group Questions/Comments

- How does homeowners insurance come into this? As a homeowner if you were injured on my property I would want to take care of you.

- The majority of domestic workers only have income from employers. To lose an employer is taking away money needed for rent or food. We have two options: speak up at the time and risk being believed or go to the hospital and find a way to pay. The majority of DW don't have another option. We don't have the luxury. We must keep on forward. We come in search of work to have financial opportunities.
- Do you have any sense what kind of guidance employers would want?
- There is fear in telling these stories, as well as technological and availability challenges to providing testimony to the work group. A survey would be a good option.

Action Items:

- Schedule evening meeting in January to hopefully allow more workers to share their stories without having to take time out of their work day.
- Develop survey to gather stories, ensure the survey is available in multiple languages and available through media platforms as well as hard copies.