



June 26, 2023

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
California State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 686 – Domestic Worker Occupational Safety and Health – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Durazo,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing in strong support of SB 686, your bill to establish health and safety protections for domestic workers under California's Occupational Safety and Health Act (Cal/OSHA).

All Home is a Bay Area organization focused on interrupting the cycle of homelessness and poverty by increasing housing stability and economic mobility for Californians with the lowest incomes. In the Bay Area, over 1 million people live with extremely low incomes (ELI) – an average of \$17,000 each year – and are one financial crisis away from experiencing homelessness. Domestic workers account for the majority of people with extremely low incomes who are working, who provide essential personal care and other services in the home.

Domestic workers face risk of injury and illness in their day-to-day work, which could be prevented by appropriate health and safety regulations. Yet in the United States, domestic workers have been historically excluded from the most basic labor protections. Some of our key federal labor laws – the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act – have at some point, if not currently, excluded these workers. This exclusion, which is part of the ongoing legacy of slavery and racism, has served to further the false narrative that domestic work is voluntary, unpaid and “non-productive.” The failure to recognize domestic work as real work has left domestic service workers particularly vulnerable to workplace injuries and illness, with little recourse. The COVID 19 pandemic and the growing frequency and intensity of climate accelerated disasters have magnified these failures with devastating impacts on domestic workers in California.

SB 686 takes an essential step forward by eliminating the exclusion of privately paid “household domestic service” employees from California’s Occupational Safety and Health Act (Cal/OSHA). It supports employers with compliance by establishing technical and financial assistance, and expands the existing Domestic Worker and Employer Outreach and Education Program to include health and safety outreach and education for domestic service employees and employers.

This bill will increase the safety and security of some of California’s most essential – and until now, ignored – workers. It moves our state closer to a future where all work is properly valued and compensated; for these reasons, All Home supports Sb 686 and thanks you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tomiquia Moss".

Tomiquia Moss
Founder and CEO
All Home