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Subject: Support for H-7532: Fair Wages for Domestic Workers

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor,

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of SEIU 1199NE, a union that proudly represents 5,000 dedicated healthcare and service workers throughout Rhode Island. Today, I am writing to express our wholehearted support for House Bill H-7532, a pivotal piece of legislation that seeks to rightfully categorize individuals employed in domestic service or working in or about private homes as employees for the purpose of minimum wage laws.

The essence of this bill lies in its commitment to fairness and equity in the workplace. Domestic workers, who are integral to the well-being of numerous families across our state, have long been overlooked in conversations about labor rights and fair compensation. By ensuring they are covered under minimum wage laws, H-7532 rectifies a critical gap in our labor protections.

This legislative move is closely aligned with SEIU 1199NE's vision of a labor market where every worker is treated with dignity and compensated fairly for their labor. Extending minimum wage protections to domestic workers marks a significant step forward in creating a more equitable and just Rhode Island.

Domestic workers, including caregivers, housekeepers, and nannies, form the backbone of many households, providing essential services that allow other sectors of the economy to flourish. Recognizing their contribution through fair wage laws is not only a matter of justice but also an acknowledgment of their vital role in our society.

Many of these workers are from marginalized communities, and by securing their rights to a minimum wage, we are not only enhancing their economic stability but also taking a stand against systemic inequities. It is a step towards ensuring that all workers, regardless of their employment setting, can live with dignity and without the constant strain of financial insecurity.

We strongly urge you to support H-7532 and advocate for the fair treatment of domestic workers in Rhode Island. It is time to acknowledge the hard work and essential services provided by these workers by ensuring they are compensated fairly and justly.

Thank you for considering our support for this significant legislation. We look forward to witnessing the positive changes it will bring to the lives of domestic workers and, by extension, to the labor environment in our state.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore