



SENATE FLOOR ALERT: VOTE “AYE” ON SB 1257 (DURAZO)

SB 1257 has strong legislative support: SB 1257 passed the Senate Labor Committee and Senate Appropriations. It has been declared a priority bill by the California Latino Legislative Caucus.

Background: There are over 300,000 domestic workers who work as housekeepers, nannies, and caregivers in private homes in California. Two million households in California rely on domestic workers to care for their homes and loved ones. Domestic workers are majority immigrant women who typically work in isolation in private homes for very low wages. Many are the primary breadwinners for their families.

In the private home workplace, occupational risks and hazards for domestic workers include physical and ergonomic demands and exposure to infectious diseases and household cleaning chemicals. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent California wildfires have magnified the vulnerability and dangers that domestic workers face because they are excluded from California’s Occupational Health and Safety protections. Currently, domestic workers act as frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. They provide care to California’s most vulnerable to illness, like seniors and people with compromised immune systems, yet they remain vulnerable and without basic health and safety protections. During the wildfires that devastated California, domestic workers and other household workers, such as day laborers, were asked to stay behind to fight fires, guard homes or pets, work in smoky conditions, and clean up toxic ash. The growing frequency and intensity of wildfires and other natural disasters requires that legislators take immediate legislative action to protect the health and safety of these workers.

SB 1257 will eliminate the “household domestic service” exclusion in Labor Code §6303 (Cal/OSHA) to require that domestic worker employers provide a safe working environment. The bill would require Cal/OSHA to convene an advisory committee to evaluate whether there is a need to develop industry-specific regulations related to household domestic service. The bill would require the advisory committee to include an equal number of representatives of household domestic service employees and employers.

SB 1257 has broad community support and no opposition. Supporters include:





