Councilmember Elissa Silverman, Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, announces a public hearing before the Committee on B24-712, the “Domestic Worker Employment Rights Amendment Act of 2022.” The bill would require anyone hiring a domestic worker in D.C. for more than five hours a month to provide the worker with a written contract that establishes their hours, pay, and other specifics about the work being performed. The bill also would treat domestic workers like other workers by ending the carve outs of domestic workers from the D.C. Human Rights Act, which protects workers against workplace discrimination, and from the District’s Occupational Safety and Health Act, which helps ensure that workplaces are free from health and safety hazards.

Public witnesses may participate in this hearing in person or via Zoom (virtual or by telephone). Those who wish to testify must sign up on the form located at: https://forms.gle/hpAVViYNmLKKsPVA by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, and provide their name, email address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and job title (if any), as well as the language of oral interpretation they require (if any). Witnesses who require language interpretation, including American Sign Language, are requested to inform the Labor Committee of the need as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. The Council’s Office of the Secretary will fulfill timely requests for language interpretation services, however requests received later than June 8 may not be able to be fulfilled due to vendor availability.

The committee will email instructions on how to participate to those who have signed up by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, including Zoom instructions for those who plan to appear via Zoom. Only witnesses who have signed up by the deadline will be permitted to participate. Those wishing to testify are encouraged to email their written testimony to labor@dccouncil.us by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, so that staff may distribute testimonies to committee members and staff in advance. Those representing organizations will have five minutes to present their testimony, and other individuals will have three minutes to present their testimony; less time will be allowed if there are many witnesses.
If anyone is unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements will be made a part of the official record. Written statements should be submitted by email to labor@dccouncil.us. Additionally, the public may provide testimony by voice mail by calling (202) 455-0153, stating and spelling the witness’s name, stating any organizational affiliation, and speaking slowly to provide a statement to be transcribed and included in the record. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 30, 2022.