

Support Fair Treatment for our Nation's Home Care Providers!

Dear Colleague:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus, we invite you to join us in sending the attached letter to U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, asking her to ensure fair labor protections for our nation's home care workforce.

Home care workers are the backbone of our nation's long-term care system, providing essential care, services, and support for activities of daily living to more than 15 million Americans nationwide. These workers often perform stressful, physically demanding jobs. However, they are among the lowest paid individuals in the entire service industry. Their low wages are compounded by current Department of Labor regulations that exclude these workers from federal minimum wage and overtime protections.

According to the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, the average inflation-adjusted hourly wage of home health aides and home care aides has actually declined over the past 8 years. Meanwhile, the number of Americans in need of home care services is projected to reach 27 million by 2050. One of America's fastest growing industries should not be among its worst paid!

Our ability to meet our nation's long term care challenges depends largely on a strong workforce of home care workers. It is therefore critical that we replace the existing regulations and ensure that these workers, who provide essential services to our nation's elderly and disabled, have the right to a minimum wage and overtime pay.

For more information or to sign onto the letter, please contact Celeste Drake in the office of Rep. Linda Sánchez at celeste.drake@mail.house.gov, Kim Glas in the office of Rep. Michael Michaud at kim.glas@mail.house.gov, or Peter Sally in the office of Rep. Stephen Lynch at peter.sally@mail.house.gov. The deadline to sign is May 15, 2009.

Sincerely,

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress