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Commissioner



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January 20, 2026

Senator Tipping, Chair
Representative Roeder, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1774 – *An Act to Protect Domestic Workers*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information for your consideration regarding LD 1774, *An Act to Protect Domestic Workers*.

LD 1774 would establish labor standards for domestic workers including requiring rules regulating the employment of domestic workers, requiring employers to engage in contracts for domestic employees, and implementing limitations on hours worked and rest breaks.

While the Department of Health and Human Services primarily defers to the Department of Labor on this bill, the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) is concerned with the proposed definition of “domestic worker.” As written, the definition could be interpreted to include individuals who are employed by a licensed family child care provider that operates out of the provider’s home (because they work in a residence and provide child care services). The inclusion of this group of employees does not appear to align with the intent of this bill.

If the Committee is inclined to move forward with this proposal, OCFS recommends adding language to the exception language in the definition of “domestic worker.” The recommended language would be “or an individual employed to provide child care services in a child care program licensed under Title 22, Chapter 1673.”

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW".

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW
Director
Office of Child and Family Services
Maine Department of Health and Human Services