

## Childcare Providers and Economic Justice

Economic justice is deeply rooted in sacred Scriptures. In the Jewish Torah, we find mandates for worker justice, such as Deuteronomy 24:14-15:



*“You shall not withhold the wages of the poor and needy laborers...otherwise they might cry to the Lord against you.”*

In the words and deeds of Jesus and the letters of the New Testament, we find the good news proclaimed to the poor and specific admonitions, such as:

*“The wages of laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out...and have reached the ears of the Lord” (James 5:4).*

The Qur’an reminds the community of Islam about its duty to promote fairness and economic justice for all people.

Struggles for economic justice are daily happenings in our Capital District community. Today we draw your attention to home-based childcare providers who are licensed and regulated by New York State. Their work ensures that children are in a safe, quality learning environment when parents have to be at work or school. But home-based childcare providers lack a voice in decisions that affect their profession. For this reason, they have organized into a group called VOICE/CSEA and are seeking a change in state law to allow them to decide whether or not they want to collectively bargain with the state. They have made progress. The Senate passed Bill #6758 and the Assembly passed Bill #10060 recognizing independent childcare providers’ right to make this decision. And although the Governor vetoed the bill, the Senate voted to override the veto. Soon, the State Assembly will be voting whether or not to override.

*We are called to strive for God’s perfect law rather than settle for imperfect human-made laws. We are blessed when we pray, seek discernment, and take wise action that flows from our spiritual and moral foundations.*

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## ABCs of what *you* can do:

- A. Pray for working people, especially childcare providers.
- B. Remember to ask questions about how workers are treated. Speak up in support of working people who are seeking respect and a voice in their working situations.
- C. Concretely today, sign this form, expressing your support for a law that would establish the right of home-based childcare providers to decide if they want to have collective bargaining rights. The LRC will deliver this page to State Assembly members, urging them to override the Governor's veto.
- D. Join the Labor-Religion Coalition for a press event at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 14. Check [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org) for directions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please contact the  
Labor Religion Coalition, 33 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12210  
518-482-5595, [lrc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lrc@nycap.rr.com), [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org)  
The Labor Religion Coalition is the Capital District affiliate  
of the following groups:  
New York State Labor Religion Coalition, Interfaith Worker Justice,  
and Jobs with Justice

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