November 30, 2020

Hon. Joseph Biden
President-elect of the United States
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Cc’ed:

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

George Gresham
President, 1199SEIU
498 7th Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear President-elect Joe Biden,

Do you know that in the United States of America, we have 24-hour workdays?

We write to you from the Ain’t I A Woman?! Campaign, an organizing and educational effort of labor groups, elderly and disabled self-advocates, and women’s rights organizations. We aim to end the super-exploitation of women, and hold those benefiting from sweatshop labor accountable—whether we work in garment factories, home healthcare, or offices.

Home attendants in New York State—the majority of whom are immigrants and women of color—take care of senior, disabled, and sick individuals who need around-the-clock care, in their homes. But instead of assigning split shifts to these patients, many home care agencies force home attendants to work 24 hours a day, multiple days a week. These shifts have damaged the health of home care workers and negatively impacted their family. These long-hour shifts pose a safety risk to those being cared for when exhausted and stressed workers cannot provide their best care.
Such inhumane working arrangements are sanctioned by Governor Andrew Cuomo. For years, many home attendants from various agencies have come out to demand an end to the 24-hour workday. But Governor Cuomo has been on the side of the unscrupulous home care agencies and insurance companies to maintain 24-hour workdays. For a Democratic Governor who prides himself as being pro-labor and leading the most progressive state, this is unconscionable.

Don't let 24-hour workdays become the shameful legacy of our country. We urge you to ask Governor Cuomo to stop his promotion of such abuse and exploitation of women--by ending the 24-hour workdays.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Lum

The Ain't I A Woman?! Campaign