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Assembly Approves Landmark Domestic Workers Bill of Rights; ERA is Proud Member of Coalition Legal Team

SAN FRANCISCO, Monday, June 6, 2011 – The California Assembly approved AB 889 last week, the California Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, a landmark bill that would provide clear guidance for employers and household workers.

Equal Rights Advocates, a national, nonprofit civil rights organization, is a member of the legal team, which includes the Golden Gate Women's Employment Rights Clinic, La Raza Central Legal, the UCLA Labor Center, and the Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, that supported and worked under the direction of the California Domestic Workers Coalition. The Coalition is made up of domestic-worker run and led organizations from across California working together to make the bill a reality.

“ERA is proud of the groundbreaking efforts of the California Domestic Workers Coalition in bringing about this landmark legislation and continues to support the Coalition's work,” said Arcelia Hurtado, ERA's executive director.

ABB 889 is sponsored by Assemblymembers Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco) and V.M. Pérez (D-Coachella). The bill now heads to the State Senate for approval. Co-sponsored by Assemblymembers Michael Allen (D-Sonoma), Gil Cedillo (D-LA), Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco) and Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and Senator Kevin de León, the bill would improve the quality of care for children, families and seniors by expanding basic labor protections for household workers and setting industry-wide standards.

The bill would provide domestic workers with overtime protections and extend safe and healthy workplace protections, workers' compensation, and advanced notice before termination, among other protections common to other workers. California would become the second state after New York in having a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. New York's bill passed last year.

About ERA

Equal Rights Advocates (ERA), founded in 1974, is a national civil rights organization dedicated to protecting and expanding economic and educational access and opportunities for women and girls. Through its campaign approach—incorporating public education, legislative advocacy, and litigation—ERA seeks to assist women and girls throughout a life-long continuum: ensuring equality in their educational experience, combating sex discrimination in the workforce, and advocating for workplaces hospitable to working families. For more information, see equalrights.org.

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