



The  
CENTER for  
VICTIMS of  
TORTURE

1/11/2023

Dear Madame Chair and the Committee,

Founded in 1985, the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) is a non-profit organization that is headquartered in Minnesota and has operations in the U.S., Africa and the Middle East. We extend rehabilitative care to survivors of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CIDT); build the capacity of colleague torture rehabilitation programs and human rights defenders worldwide; and engage in advocacy aimed at ending torture and CIDT and supporting the rehabilitation of survivors.

At our projects in Minnesota, numerous clients are living with host families who assist them with basic necessities such as food, housing, transportation, and finances. While many host families do their best to fulfill these basic needs, some hosts can distort this relationship. Our clients may either feel a sense of debt and obligation to give their wages to their host families, or be told that to live with the host family they must work for the household; by providing childcare, completing chores, and at times give up their chances to work outside of the house. Many also have their identification cards and work permits confiscated. Clients who leave the house and find work are unaware that their employers are not following minimum wage laws or they are not informed of their labor rights. Employers often abuse this, and underpay our clients significantly and/or force them to work long hours.

CVT supports BJ013 and urges the Committee to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

On behalf of CVT:

Peter Dross  
Vice President of External Relations

Charissa Cable, MSW, LGSW  
Psychotherapist