

**“I will look after you and I will look after anybody you
say needs to be looked after, any way you say.**

**I am here. I brought my whole self to you. I am your
mother.”**

— Maya Angelou, Mom & Me & Mom



Mother and Child, 1944 Lithograph Elizabeth Catlett (1915-2012) About the Artist: Elizabeth Catlett was an African American graphic artist and sculptor. She was born and raised in Washington D.C. and attended Howard University. Her artwork often focused on the experience of African Americans, especially women.

Sometimes, looking after your kids means making hard decisions.

Cynthia was a grill cook at a cafeteria when she told a manager that she was pregnant with her fourth child. He said the best thing he could do for her was “push her down the stairs.” In the coming months, she was persistently harassed, suspended after nine years with a clear disciplinary record, and denied bathroom breaks. Her managers thought her requests to use the restroom were excessive. When she sat down to alleviate the discomfort, they chastised her for not working.

First Shift represented her and made a significant monetary demand on her behalf because of all that she had suffered; however, the employer refused to negotiate unless she resigned.

Cynthia was faced with a horrible choice: Resign from a union job with benefits or return to work and risk further harassment. First Shift helped her weigh her options and explained the legal consequences of each. Eventually she chose to stay and First Shift secured backpay for the work she missed. Thanks to First Shift, Cynthia is also aware of her rights and prepared to respond in case of retaliation.

First Shift moms deal with these difficult dilemmas on a regular basis; First Shift provides them with the support they need to make informed decisions for their families, while advocating for stronger policies that will give them better choices.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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