



To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime
From: Maggie Gates, Legislative Director, Oregon Student Association
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 4002

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime,

My name is Maggie Gates, and I am the Legislative Director at the Oregon Student Association (OSA). OSA is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing nonprofit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in post-secondary education in Oregon. We represent over 80,000 students and work to make a quality education more affordable and accessible for *all* Oregonians.

Providing farmworkers the overtime pay they deserve directly impacts many students in higher education across Oregon who come from farming communities or are farmworkers themselves. **On behalf of the Oregon Student Association, I urge you to support HB 4002.** Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

For too long farmworkers have been denied rights afforded to other workers. Throughout the pandemic, during extreme heat, and in wildfire season, farmworkers work tirelessly to provide food that sustains Oregonians. Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to regularly work long hours without time to pursue life-fulfilling activities like spending time with family, pursuing higher education, and resting. Farmworkers deserve a living wage and their time should be treated with dignity and respect.

Please join us in supporting farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Thank you for your time,

Maggie Gates
Legislative Director at OSA