

Date: February 21, 2020

Subject: Support for H.B. 4109 The Healthy Kids and Farmworkers Act

Senator Dembrow, Vice-chair Baertschiger and Members of the Committee

My name is Angela, I have been an agricultural farmworker in Oregon since 1988 until present. To mention a few, I have worked picking strawberries, blueberries, broccoli, and cauliflower, and nurseries which have chlorpyrifos and other pesticides that affect our families. These are just a few of the many jobs that farmworkers perform in the State of Oregon.

I have had many experiences with pesticides including chlorpyrifos since it is in the crops I have worked with. I remember various occasions in which the neighboring farm from my work would be sprayed with pesticides via aircraft. My coworkers and I smelled the unpleasant odor from the chemicals which were carried over into our workplace through heavy winds and because we were close in proximity. Often, the pesticides would cause my coworkers and I to experience strong headaches and dizziness while on the job. The neighboring farm would never notify nor warn us about their fumigating schedule nor the effects of the toxins.

As farmworkers, we cannot do much nor resign from the job because we need to provide food and housing for our families even if that means coming in contact directly with chlorpyrifos.

Unfortunately, I know of about ten cases where my coworkers and family members, who were farm working women, had sudden miscarriages. We will never know if those miscarriages were due to pesticide poisoning because we don't know which pesticides we are exposed to-- we don't believe it was a coincidence.

I strongly encourage you to support the ban on the Chlorpyrifos pesticide so that farmworkers, like me, are protected and so that women and their children are protected. So that our families do not have to suffer health issues that come from pesticides like chlorpyrifos. I urge your support on HB 4109.

Sincerely,

Angela Gaspar
Woodburn, Oregon