

March 8, 2021

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham, and Grayber, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

My name is Daysi Bedolla Sotelo and I am writing in support of House Bill 2358 Farmworker Overtime. When I was 16 years old I went to work in the fields for the summer season, and at such a young age I was introduced to the hard labor of our farmworkers. I was working beside my mom, waking up at 3:00 or 4:00 am to drive to a new destination every day. We would usually start work at 7:00 am and work until 6:00 pm without overtime paid. We would work more than 8+ hours per day and would not be compensated for overtime. The reason why I went to work with my mother was that I wanted to work to buy myself a laptop, but I met many people who went to work to make sure their families had food on their table, a roof over their heads, clothes, etc. It was very heartbreaking to talk to many family members who would have second or third jobs just to meet end means.

I was a 16-year-old, that went back a few years during the summer break that I had. I started to go to be able to help my family as well. Both of my parents are farmworkers that continue to do this work. In the middle of the pandemic, wildfires, and recently a winter storm they still show up to work with not enough benefits, and not paid for all the extra hours they are working.

Farmworkers have put their lives on the line for the past year, they have not been able to work at home, and are constantly being left behind. By moving this bill forward we will ensure that they have a greater benefit for not only themselves but their families as well. It is time we pay them the money they deserve for all of their hard work and labor.

I urge you all to support this bill as you will change many lives and our future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.