

Submitter: Naomi Halpern
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/8/2022

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Naomi Halpern

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

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

My name is Naomi Halpern. I live in Corvallis and have been involved in agriculture and immigrant justice for the last 10 years. Everyone who works deserves to be fairly compensated for their skill and effort, and this bill, if passed, would help to level decades old injustice that compromises farmworkers; jobs that most often are held by the most sensitive, and already undermined and in need of resources members of our community.

I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at 1.5 times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and they deserve fair compensation and the ability to equitably and sustainably support themselves and their families, just like the rest of jobs.

Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health conditions and a longer life for farmworkers. This will also mean they are better able to be healthy in their families and supportive in society as a whole. Farmworkers are some of the lowest paid workers in Oregon with a median income of \$28,000 a year. Farmworkers who put food on our table should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so.

I urge you please to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,

Naomi Halpern