



To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Dana Hepper, Children's Institute
Date: February 9, 2022
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime, HB 4002

Children's Institute is an early childhood advocacy organization that uses research, practice, policy and advocacy to shift systems toward justice for families so that all Oregon's children, birth to grade 5, have access to opportunity through high-quality early care and education programs.

Children's Institute supports the passage of farmworker overtime (HB 4002). Many of Oregon's 86,389 farmworkers, on whom we depend for our nourishment, are also parents of young children. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. This is simply fair. For families, this needed change to the law will increase the financial well-being of their families and increase the time farmworkers have to spend with their families. 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 to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.