

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Ukiah Halloran-Steiner
Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Holvey, Members of the Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime,

My name is Ukiah Halloran-Steiner, I'm 16, and I live in Yamhill County. I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

In elementary school, I was enrolled in a dual-language program, meaning my classmates came from a mix of backgrounds. Together we learned to read and write in both English and Spanish. My first language was English, but that wasn't true for a majority of my friends. They came from homes that spoke Spanish, whose parents and grandparents had immigrated from Mexico and Central America to work for the US, many of them in agriculture.

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* tables should be able to put food on *their own* tables and make enough money to support their families. Overtime pay would extend to Oregon's 86,389 farmworkers. That's 86,389 people who could better support their young children, elderly parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and more.

Farmworkers have long been excluded from minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay. Farmworkers are not second-class workers; they are essential workers. We rely on them every single day, with every single meal we eat. The people who provide us with the food that we consume deserve to be compensated fairly.

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.

Sincerely,

Ukiah Halloran-Steiner