

Submitter: JESSICA CAMPBELL
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime
Measure: HB4002

Date: 2/24/22

To: Joint Committee on Farmworker Overtime
From: Jessica Campbell/Jessa Campbell & the Saplings
Re: Support for HB 4002-Farmworker Overtime

Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee On Farm Worker Overtime,

My name is Jessica Campbell, a 34 year old mother and music/theatre performer and I live in Portland, OR.

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.

As a former employee (singer/dancer) of Holland America Line cruise ships, I watched my fellow crew members work far beyond the International Labor Organization's limit of 11 hour work days. They did not receive overtime pay, even when working 12-14 days for generally 10 months straight. Medical attention was denied, food substandard and pay extremely low. Holland America Line is a US company, flying a "flag of convenience", with the registration being elsewhere. This allows them to evade taxation and labor laws. Without international laws that protect these workers once 3 miles from any country's borders, they were grossly mistreated. This is one small example of what an American owned company is capable of without legislation that stops them from abusing their employees. Together with the Canadian Broadcasting Company, I was able to help expose some of these practices over time, while continuing to perform on the ship. I bring this up to remind you that we are capable of passing legislation that protects folks while working on American soil. We can assure that when employees are risking their health and safety while working in unprecedented extreme weather conditions, they are fairly compensated for it. I have seen what lengths we go to when accountability is not present. Let's hold ourselves to a higher standard and be an example. Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. Having been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, these human beings are being abused just as I witnessed on the Cruise Line. This must end.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 4002 to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Sincerely,

Jessica Campbell
Mother and supporter of basic Human Rights
Jessa Campbell & the Saplings