

Submitter: Jaime Carleton  
On Behalf Of: Farmworkers  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

Support HB 2548 Jaime Carleton Civil Rights Activist Abolitionist

March 8, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, Senator Kayse Jama, Representative Valderrama and Committee Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards.

My name is Jaime Carleton and I am an Abolitionist and Civil rights Activist and I also have personal experience with working in the fields picking fruits and vegetables.

I believe in equity and Social Justice. I especially support HB 2548 because it's unfair to deny equal rights to the farmworkers who work very hard to put food on our table's.

I would rather pay a little extra if I have to for my food than have the farmworkers go without food for their families, equal rights and protection under the law that they deserve.

This law will establish legal working standards and I believe there should be legal remedies for farmworkers that are abused, and fired for no legal reason.

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which would fairly compensate farmworkers for their work and allow inclusion and equality for the farmworkers.

All Oregon workers deserve a remedy for agricultural work when alleging a violation.

I believe this law will benefit both farmworkers and the business they work for, because the law sets forth conditions that must be satisfied that makes a safe, fair and good working condition for agricultural worker and Employee alike.

I also ask that you also support HB 2548 because without fair wages workers cannot afford rising housing costs leading to extreme housing instability in many of our farm communities. Excluding farmworkers from pay is an injustice and is based in our racist history as a state.

Farmworkers work is essential and necessary

to our well-being putting food on our Oregon families tables.  
Farmworkers currently receive low pay for long hours worked with no compassion or respect for the hard work they do from their employers.

I know firsthand how hard Farmwork is. When I first moved to Oregon in 1979 I worked long hard hours in the hot fields and received low pay with no overtime. I lived in poverty and under terrible housing conditions because of the low wages for my hard work. And I needed to feed my children. It was hard living on my low wage without overtime.

Farmworkers deserve respect for their labor and deserve equality like every other worker in Oregon.

Every Oregonian deserves equal pay. Equal wages, safe work conditions and equality whether through rulemaking or lawsuits. The only question is whether the legislature will provide certainty, a clear timeline, and transparency, a clear safe voice,

All Oregon workers deserve a remedy for agricultural work alleging a violation. Inclusion and support for Oregon workers. I urge you to support  
HB 2548

Thank-You for this opportunity to testify.

Jaime Ann Carleton

Civil Rights Activist and Animal Liberation Activist