

TO: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
FROM: Daniel
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 2548

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Committee Members,

My name is Daniel, and I am the son of farmworkers. I am writing to share my experience growing up and why HB 2548 is so important for farmworkers like my parents.

When I was growing up, my parents worked long hours in the fields, doing the hardest work imaginable. They woke up before sunrise and worked until the sun set, but no matter how hard they worked, they still struggled to make ends meet. I remember hearing their bosses always say how important their workers were, how they couldn't run their business without them. But how can that be true when the wages they paid my parents couldn't even cover basic things like rent and groceries?

We would go without things we needed, while my parents worked their bodies to the bone. It was frustrating and painful to see how little they were paid for the work they did. They were never protected when they were injured. I remember begging my mom to stay home because she was injured, but she told me she was okay to work. I know that it wasn't true. My mom had to put her health on the line because we had bills to pay. The issue is that my parents are paid too little and are forced to go to work for meager wages to be able to survive. Even though they were out there working every day to feed families across the country, we were barely getting by. That is not fair.

HB 2548 would help change that. It would make sure that farmworkers like my parents get fair pay, better working conditions, and the respect they deserve for the essential work they do. **FARMWORKERS ARE IMPORTANT, TREAT THEM AS SUCH.** Farmworkers deserve the protections at the very least.

Vote YES on HB 2548. This bill is a step in the necessary direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel