



## Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards  
From: Family Forward Oregon  
Date: 3/11/25  
RE: In Support of HB 2548

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and members of the committee:

We at Family Forward Oregon are in strong support of HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board in Oregon. This legislation is a crucial step towards addressing the long-standing exploitation and marginalization of agricultural workers, predominantly women and people of color, who are the backbone of our food system.

There are over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers, who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.4 billion to our state's economy. Yet, they experience poor working conditions and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. Most farmworkers are immigrants that work have a large array of valuable skills that create a positive impact in our state's economy.

We recognize the inherent value and dignity of all workers, regardless of their immigration status or occupation. The proposed board will provide a critical platform for agricultural workers to have a voice in determining their working conditions, compensation, and benefits. HB 2548 will give historically excluded workers their first voice in setting industry standards with real enforcement power and accountability. The board will ensure access to fair wages, safe conditions, and protection from retaliation

Cities and states across the country have proven that workforce standards boards work. These boards bring workers together with industry and public representatives to set meaningful standards, with real enforcement power to ensure accountability. Oregon is behind when it comes to implementing such workboards; from New York's farm laborers to Minnesota's nursing home staff to Seattle's domestic workers, these boards give workers the voice and protections they deserve and give our communities the essential food we need.

Family Forward is in support of HB 2548 because we believe that when workers and employers unite to set industry standards we create more stable, innovative, and equitable industries that benefit everyone, especially those excluded from basic labor protections. These boards are vital to serving the best interests of the families we advocate for. We understand that the struggles faced by agricultural workers are inextricably linked to broader

systems of oppression. We believe that this legislation is an essential part of a larger movement to create a more just and equitable society.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 2548 to create a Farmworker Standards Board and give farmworkers the ability to set standards for the industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Selina Biniam*

Advocacy Manager  
Family Forward Oregon

