

Submitter: Wendy Schmidt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2548

My name is Wendy Schmidt and I am a first-generation Latina school counselor in Oregon. I am the proud daughter of farmworkers, and I work in a school where many of my students share similar experiences, as children of farmworkers. I am writing to strongly support HB2548, as I have seen firsthand the challenges that farmworker families face and the profound impact this has on their children, particularly in the educational setting.

Growing up as the daughter of farmworkers, I witnessed the long, grueling hours my parents worked just to survive—often in grueling conditions, sometimes far from home, and with minimal pay. My parents worked tirelessly to provide for our family, and while they were doing their best to make ends meet, I often found myself stepping in to help at home. This is a reality for many of the students I work with today. The children of farmworkers in my school often face the same challenges: helping care for siblings, taking on household responsibilities, and sacrificing their own time and energy to help their families.

As a school counselor, I have observed the significant impact these challenges have on students. These students come to school with heavy hearts, weary from the weight of their home responsibilities. Many of them struggle to concentrate, complete assignments, or participate in extracurricular activities because they are often stretched thin, juggling between school and the demands at home. Their ability to focus on their education is compromised by their need to support their families—sometimes through translations, assisting with younger siblings, or even working part-time jobs when possible.

This bill is critical because it directly addresses the need for greater support for these students and their families. It acknowledges the hardships that many of my students face and seeks to provide them with the resources and attention they deserve. By providing increased funding for programs that support farmworker families, this bill would help create a more equitable learning environment and much needed support for families.

I strongly believe that the passage of HB2548 will make a tangible difference in the lives of many families. With the support of this bill, families can have access to the resources and stability they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill. I stand in full support

of HB2548 and urge you to take action to improve the lives of farmworker families and their children across Oregon.

Sincerely,
Wendy Schmidt
School Counselor