

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

After listening to the testimony in the hearing today, I am in support of this bill because I don't see better options at this time. I understand that "family farming" is difficult and farmers struggle to make a living. This is not, however, the fault of their workers, and the problems and burdens should not be pushed on to the workers. If farmers can only afford to be farmers by exploiting the labor of others, then they should work longer hours themselves to avoid having to hire help, or find another vocation, just as a shop owner who can not afford to pay workers fairly has to work longer hours themselves in order to keep their shop open. Otherwise, we are sanctioning a form of slavery - someone making a profit for themselves purely through the labor of others. Farm workers deserve protections, a living wage, and safe work conditions, just as any other worker does. No one has a right to make a living by exploiting the labor and risking the health and safety of others.

Until we have major systemic changes, freeing ourselves from the capitalist system that creates the middlemen who stand between farmers and consumers, demanding their profits for doing so, life will continue to be difficult for farmers, farm laborers, and workers everywhere. I encourage our elected lawmakers to seriously look at the systemic conditions that create so many problems, rather than trying to solve the problems piecemeal with solutions such as those presented in this bill. But until you do, this is the best solution we have, and I encourage you to support it.

Also, as our federal government is destroyed before our eyes and the extreme capitalists are blatantly taking over, destroying even the illusion that we have a say in how it all works, why isn't our state seceding? I see the legislature trying to carry on as if things were normal, but they aren't.