

February 1, 2022

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of HB 4002. As a member of AAUW of Oregon and as someone who believes in the values and ideals put for in the Constitution of the United States of America, I think this bill must be passed to put right wrongs that have gone on far too long. As I am sure you are aware, most farm workers are immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. Farm workers were excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act as part of the shameful legacy of racism that initially targeted African Americans who were farmworkers in the 1930's.

Especially during the Covid pandemic but always, farmworkers are recognized as "essential" workers. However, they are instead treated as second-class workers. Yet Farmworkers are one of the lowest paid workers in the country, earning a total income of about \$15,000 to \$17,499 a year for individuals and \$20,000 to \$24,999 for a family.

Overtime laws exist because there are risks of injury and wear and tear to workers if they work past a reasonable limit. Agricultural work is one of the most physically demanding and exhausting jobs and has even resulted in death.

People's lives should also include time for rest, family, and off-the-job needs just as most other jobs provide.

I am asking for your support for our Oregon farm workers. They deserve equity in their jobs. Please support this bill with your vote and show the farm workers they are "essential workers" in fact as well as in name.

Sincerely,

Georgia Applegate

Williams, OR