

Isabela Villarreal
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Next Up Action Fund



Re: Neutral HB 4002

February 7th, 2022

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Isabela, my pronouns are she/her and I'm with Next Up Action Fund. We work to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. I am writing to you today in support of farmworker overtime. Farmworkers should receive overtime pay after 40 hours in a workweek at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Farmworkers deserve dignity, respect and labor rights. For too long they have been denied rights other workers have been afforded. Farmworkers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay since the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Farmworkers are not second-class workers and deserve the same rights as the rest of workers.

Overtime pay law was created to discourage employers from overworking employees. Before 1938, employers overworked workers even to the point of death. Extending overtime pay protections to farmworkers will create better health conditions and a longer life for farmworkers.

Exclusion from overtime pay requires farmworkers to work many hours without having time to do other things. Overtime pay would give farmworkers more time outside of work. Farmworkers should be able to spend more time with their families or tend to other responsibilities, instead of spending most of their life at work.

We cannot wait another year to pay farmworkers what they deserve. I urge you to pass farmworker overtime in the 2022 Legislative Session to ensure farmworkers in Oregon are paid fairly for their skilled and essential labor.

Thank you,

Isabela Villarreal
Policy and Communications Manager