

02/04/2022

Re: Farmworker Overtime pay after 40 hours

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

Mi nombre es Anabertha A, vivo en la ciudad de Portland, Oregon, soy Madre de 4 hijos adultos y abuela de un hermoso nieto, todos ellos son parte fundamental de esta sociedad que juntos formamos.

Menciono esto porque mi testimonio está relacionado a ellos y a su infancia. Hemos vivido en Oregon desde el año 1994, mi esposo y yo llegamos aquí persiguiendo la temporada de trabajo en el campo. Como buenos inmigrantes nos movíamos constantemente, yendo de un campo a otro, hasta que finalmente y siendo padres de 4 hijos no pudimos seguir sosteniéndonos con los salarios que nos ofrecían por nuestro trabajo. Trabajamos de sol a sol y aun así no nos alcanzaba el salario, debo decir que mis hijos estaban creciendo solos sin su padre y en constante cambio de niñeras ya que no teníamos los recursos para pagar a alguien que los cuidara regularmente.

Durante esos años de trabajo incesante, nunca recibimos pago de horas extras, ni otros beneficios, mientras que todos los demás si lo recibían y entre más privilegiados mejores beneficios tenían, nosotros sin embargo nos sentíamos gente sin valor para esta sociedad, por no merecer ese pago extra que pudo haber hecho que nos quedáramos trabajando en el campo, porque aun amando nuestra labor no podíamos sostenernos. Tuvimos que abandonarlo como hemos tenido que abandonar tanto en nuestras vidas.

Hoy día hay cientos de personas que están enfrentando esta misma situación por ser consideradas personas de bajo valor humano, siendo que ellos son el puente de sustento para las cosechas que nos alimentan a todos. Este día pido el pago de horas extras para nuestra gente y que de esta manera se les demuestre que no son de bajo valor humano y con esto le darían a mi familia la oportunidad de volver al campo que tanto amamos y poder tener una vida más digna y un futuro mejor para todos. Los que ya vamos al retiro y los que serán nuestros líderes del futuro, porque que les estamos enseñando a nuestros hijos campesinos, ¿Que no valen? ¿Que lo que hacen no es importante? pero los que estamos aquí sabemos que sin ellos no hay alimentos en nuestras mesas, sin sus manos y su entrega no hay comida en sus mesas y en las nuestras tampoco.

Esperando una respuesta afirmativa a mi petición y la de otros cientos de personas, para el pago de horas extras a los campesinos, agradezco su atención y su valioso tiempo y me despido. Gracias.

Anabertha,

04/02/2022

Re: Farmworker Overtime pay after 40 hours

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

My name is Anabertha A, I live in the city of Portland, Oregon, I am the mother of 4 adult children and the grandmother of a beautiful grandson, all of whom are a fundamental part of this society that we form together.

I mention this because my testimony is related to them and their childhood. We have lived in Oregon since 1994, my husband and I came here chasing the farm season. As good immigrants we moved constantly, going from one field to another, until finally, being parents of 4 children, we could not continue supporting ourselves with the salaries that were offered to us for our work. We worked from dawn to dusk and even so our salary was not enough. I must say that my children were growing up alone without their father and in constant change of nannies since we did not have the resources to pay someone to take care of them regularly.

During those years of incessant work, we never received overtime pay or other benefits, while everyone else received it and the more privileged they were, the better benefits they had. However, we felt like people of no value to this society, because we were not getting that extra payment that could have made us stay working in the fields, because even loving our work we couldn't support ourselves. We had to give it up as we have had to give up so much in our lives.

Today there are hundreds of people who are facing this same situation because they are considered people of low human value, since they are the bridge of sustenance for the crops that feed us all. Today I ask for farmworker overtime pay for our people and that in this way they be shown that they are not of low human value and with this they would give my family the opportunity to return to the countryside that we love so much and to be able to have a more dignified life and a better future for all. Those of us who are already going to retire and those who will be our leaders of the future, because what are we teaching our farm working children, what are they not worth? That what they do is not important? but those of us who are here know that without them there is no food on our tables, without their hands and their delivery there is no food on their tables and neither on ours.

Waiting for an affirmative response to my request and that of hundreds of other people, for the farmworker overtime pay, I thank you for your attention and your valuable time.

Thank you.

Anabertha,