

Submitter: V Franklin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

Supporting our farmworkers is essential to the health and welfare of our community. These families form the foundation of our food system and support our economy at the most fundamental level. That we do not already provide them with equal pay for equal work is an affront to democracy and an embarrassment to our constitutional values. Not only should we provide these essential members of our community with the fair and living wages every citizen deserves we should apologize that it took so long to get here. I have been fortunate in my lifetime to have worked alongside agricultural farmworkers, and I feel privileged to call them my friends, neighbors, and colleagues. These families often face housing insecurity, while struggling to access basic necessities like healthcare, childcare, and transportation. Due to low wages and lack of overtime pay children and elders in our agricultural community often suffer from food insecurity. How can we call ourselves a civilized society when the people who put food on our table struggle to put it on their own? Overtime pay for farm workers is the least we can do and it is long overdue. Let's get this done.