

Submitter: Bryleigh Oneil

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4002

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

My name is Bryleigh O'Neil, and I live in Salem. I am a current student at Willamette University and I grew up in Springfield, 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. This must happen immediately! A five-year transition period is way too long and this will cause continued strain on all essential farmworkers! Farmworkers deserve to be treated humanely and paid living wages!

For years, farmworkers have been excluded from minimum wage protections, child labor laws, and overtime pay. This is completely unacceptable and leaves many farmworkers and their families in extremely vulnerable situations. This lack of farmworker protections and overtime pay is rooted in racist, exclusionary policies! All workers, including essential farmworkers, deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity and obtain full, protective labor rights!

It was extremely disheartening to hear that farmworkers on average are only able to spend about one hour per week with their families. I can not imagine what this must be like for children and significant others of farmworkers. Families deserve to be able to spend quality time together! Beyond this, farmers must be able to have enough time in their schedules to be able to manage outside of work responsibilities. Farmworkers should not be faced with the choice of working excessively without overtime pay or spending time with family and handling other responsibilities. Farmworkers must receive a living wage so they can pay for living expenses while also having healthy, fulfilling, and balanced lives.

Farmworkers are absolutely essential workers and we must pay them overtime as such! They put food on our table and should be able to put food on their own table and make enough money to do so. Washington and California already have farmworker overtime laws on the books. If we don't pay our skilled farmworkers what they deserve, they will take their abilities to where they are better compensated, leaving Oregon farms behind. This will have absolutely terrible ramifications for all Oregon farmers and all residents of Oregon!

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.

Sincerely,

Bryleigh O'Neil