

February 23, 2022

Co-Chairs Taylor and Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime:

Support for HOUSE BILL 4002A - Requiring Overtime for Farmworkers

I am a member of AAUW of OR who is expressing my support for this important legislation. A large part of my professional career was spent in working with Civil Rights Laws, both as a regulator and then for defending organizations. Wage and Hour law was part of what I tangentially enforced since violations of both kinds of laws were often connected. Specifically excluding a group from overtime when that group is almost exclusively of one racial group smacks of white privilege and lack of human concern.

For these reasons, I support House Bill 4002A which requires that agricultural workers be paid overtime. 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. Farmworkers are recognized as "essential" workers but are instead treated as second-class workers. As I understand the bill, this legislation seeks to rectify a wrong that's been allowed to continue for too long.

Sincerely,
Sharron Noone, Ph.D.
Portland, Oregon