

February 23, 2022

Support for House Bill 4002A – Requiring Overtime for Farmworkers

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

I support this bill because this problem has existed for 100 years and has always been unacceptable. I am a member of the Baker Branch of the American Association of University Women of Oregon.

I worked with settled out migrants for a number of years in Malheur County and spent my social work energies showing them other possibilities for their lives. During the past two years farmers have been unable to find an adequate number of workers. This situation would not exist with adequate wages and safe and protected working conditions.

Farmworkers are recognized as “essential “but are treated as second-class people.

Risks of injury and general health (pesticides, etc.) are ignored and the resulting loss of the ability to work is met from other funding and other budgets in a haphazard way with lasting harm to the workers.

Sincerely,

Lucy Myers Hutchens

Member of AAUW of Oregon, Baker Branch