

February 23, 2022

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

As a member of AAUW (American Association of University Women) of Oregon and a former nurse educator, I urge you to support passage of HB 4002A. Oregon's agricultural workers, many of whom are immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, are recognized as "essential" workers, yet their pay is extremely low and they do not receive overtime for their physically demanding "essential" work.

Our nursing students have for years learned about the injustices experienced by migrant, agricultural workers while providing needed but generally unavailable community outreach services. This state of affairs coupled with poor pay, inadequate housing and long hours requires redress. HB4002 with its phased workweek definition provides a first step in righting long, overdue positive resources being made available to this essential group of workers who so strongly support our economy.

Thank your for considering support of HB 4002A.

Barbara Gaines
Portland