



Date: 2/24/2022

To: Joint Committee On Farmworker Overtime

From: Jaime Rodriguez, President of American Federation of Teachers (AFT) – Oregon

Re: Support for Farmworker Overtime

Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Taylor, and Members of the Joint Committee,

I am writing as President of the American Federation of Teachers – Oregon. Our 17,000+ members represent educators, community members, school workers, and professionals who are deeply embedded in our communities across the state. Our Political and Legislative Action Committee and Executive Committee have spoken loud and clear – **the time is now to pass Farmworker Overtime**. Communities, students, and working families cannot wait.

Our union federation and the members we represent are strong advocates for racial, social and economic justice. This issue is a high priority to be addressed. The roots of farmworker exclusion are racist, and have no place in our state. Farmworkers have been excluded or given subordinate status across wage, child labor, immigration, and union representation laws in states and in the Federal government. It should not matter what kind of work you do – employees working over 40 hours a week should be paid overtime. **Farmworkers need overtime pay after 40 hours a week at 1.5x the employee's regular rate of pay.**

The exclusion of farmworkers hurts working people, our students, and entire communities. Overtime pay will give our students and their families more stable and supportive housing, food access, and educational opportunities. It will increase the quality of life across Oregon. Passing this legislation will reduce childhood poverty. It's the right thing to do. Farmworkers perform the skilled labor which feeds us – as Oregonians, we must ensure they are paid fairly.

On behalf of our membership, I urge you to pass farmworker overtime in this 2022 Legislative Session so that farmworkers are appropriately paid for their essential labor and hard work.

Thank you,

Jaime Rodriguez, President

American Federation of Teachers – Oregon