



## SUPPORT HB 3098: Farmworker Outreach Program

HB 3098 will implement an important step in ensuring that Oregon’s farmworkers have access to culturally appropriate pesticide safety education. The proposal also will improve the accurate reporting of pesticide-related incidents, exposures, and illnesses. We support HB 3098 and the creation of a new Farmworker Outreach program to achieve these goals.

HB 3098 will establish a new Farmworker Outreach Program within the Oregon Department of Agriculture, in coordination with PARC, an inter-agency committee that serves as the single point of contact for pesticide concerns and incidents. The Farmworker Outreach Program will:

- Conduct on-site outreach and education to Oregon’s farmworkers, including the delivery of educational materials related to safe pesticide use, and procedures for reporting pesticide incidents;
- Ensure that educational materials and outreach efforts are culturally appropriate and accessible in multiple languages;
- Coordinate and collaborate across state agencies including: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Occupational Safety & Health, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Poison Center of Oregon Health and Science University, and Oregon Department of Agriculture; and
- Include input from key stakeholders as the program and materials are developed

HB 3098 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Agriculture to support the hiring of staff and development of materials.

Oregon State agencies lack programming for culturally appropriate, direct and sustained engagement with farmworkers regarding safe pesticide use, storage, and disposal, and the pesticide incident reporting process. HB 3098 fills a critical gap in programming, and seeks to meet the needs of an underserved population in our state. Help us bring this program to life and ensure that farmworkers have access to critical information that can protect both human and environmental health and our most vulnerable communities.

**Please join us in supporting HB 3098!**

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