



To: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support of HB 3194

Date: 2/27/2025

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We strongly support HB 3194, a bill that will help protect workers from unsafe and illegal housing conditions. Since 2020, most citations for unregistered labor camps have been tied to cannabis operations, but all workers should live in safe and decent housing. Right now, landowners are disconnected from oversight and regulatory compliance for camps on their property and face no consequences if the camp operators engage in improper behavior or simply disappear at the end of a season, further evading accountability and responsibility.

This bill makes three key changes:

- Ensures Landowner Accountability – Landowners who lease property to unregistered housing providers must take reasonable steps to ensure those lease holders are legally registered and compliant with state rules around labor housing registration. This closes a loophole that has allowed negligence with no pathway to hold anyone responsible for extreme worker exploitation. All people providing housing to workers should have permission from the state to do so.
- Removes Barriers to Justice – Right now, workers must prove "ongoing harm" in court, which is too difficult for seasonal workers. HB 3194 removes the requirement for an injunction while still allowing it as an optional legal tool for workers who need it.



- Aligns Penalties with Existing Labor Laws - If a worker brings a claim under CORA, the maximum total fine today is just \$500—an amount that does nothing to stop bad actors. HB 3194 increases the penalty to \$2,000 per violation, in line with what the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) can already enforce.

HB 3194 is a common-sense solution to a serious problem. It protects workers, ensures landowners take responsibility for their property, and strengthens outdated laws.