

March 7, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards,

On behalf of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), we are pleased to offer our strong **support for House Bill 2541**, which ensures that agricultural workers in Oregon have the right to express breast milk in the workplace. This bill is a necessary step toward advancing equity, health, and dignity for workers, particularly those in agricultural sectors who often face significant barriers to breastfeeding accommodations.

Breast milk provides essential nutrients, antibodies, and immune support critical for an infant's development. The inability to express milk on a regular schedule can lead to serious health consequences for lactating individuals, including painful conditions such as mastitis, decreased milk supply, and unnecessary stress. Without proper accommodations, many workers are forced to choose between their job and their child's health, a decision no parent should have to make.

Agricultural workers, many of whom are from Hispanic and immigrant communities, are the backbone of Oregon's economy. Yet, they often face harsher working conditions and fewer protections than other industries. HB 2541 helps close this gap by ensuring these essential workers have the same rights as others to a private and reasonable space to express milk during the workday.

OCHA is committed to policies that promote the well-being of working families. By passing HB 2541, Oregon can take a critical step toward ensuring that all workers, regardless of industry, have the support they need to care for themselves and their children. We urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

