



## Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Family Forward Oregon

Date: 3/11/25

RE: In Support of HB 3193

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Muñoz and Elmer, members of the committee:

My name is Andrea Metheney and I live in Portland Oregon, writing on behalf of Family Forward Oregon as their Legislative Coordinator.

I am writing in support of HB 3193, the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund. Farmworkers are often the first to experience the impacts of extreme weather conditions. Research has shown that agricultural workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat-related stress than workers in other industries. Extreme heat and drought also are fueling more intense wildfire seasons, and outdoor workers are increasingly having to deal with harmful exposures to wildfire smoke and unhealthy air quality.

HB 3193 will provide temporary financial relief to farmworkers in Oregon who lose work or wages due to extreme weather conditions. HB 3193 will define a "qualifying disaster" in regards to extreme weather as more than just extreme heat and smoke. This includes snow storms, ice storms, heavy raining, flooding, pandemics, etc. Conditions in which our farmworkers have continued working in despite the dangerous impacts to them physically and mentally.

Family Forward believes that Oregon has long recognized that we're stronger together, but safety net programs often exclude immigrant Oregonians and critical programs that serve immigrant families are underfunded, or leave dangerous gaps in coverage. HB 3193 will help the communities we advocate for by protecting essential agricultural workers during extreme weather events, making sure the people who grow our food do not have to choose between their safety, and paying rent or feeding their families.

As the costs of food, transportation, child care and housing continue to rise, Family Forward strongly supports bills that will add protections for families, and in this case those who are vital to our agricultural sectors and their ability to thrive in safety.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 3193, to provide protections and support for our farmworkers in Oregon.

Andrea Metheney  
Legislative Coordinator  
Family Forward Oregon

