

The Fair Shot For All Coalition strongly supports HB 2548.

When workers have a voice in setting standards, entire industries thrive. Oregon must not fall behind as other states discover that bringing workers and employers together creates more stable, innovative workplaces. Agriculture continues to be an important sector of Oregon’s economy. Oregon farmworkers put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.4B to our state’s economy, yet they experience poor working conditions and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually.

For generations, farmworkers have been excluded from key labor protections such as the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. These exclusions have resulted in longstanding economic disparities.

Workforce standards boards set meaningful standards with real enforcement power and accountability to support stable workforces ready to meet growing needs in the state. Standards boards are already working across the country. New York’s farm laborers, Minnesota’s nursing home staff, Seattle’s domestic workers, and California’s fast food workers have found a voice through this important tool.

HB 2548:

- Establishes a 9-member board with equal representation from workers, employers, and public members with expertise in worker health and safety.
- Creates strong enforcement through investigations, employer accountability measures, anti-retaliation protections, and the right to take legal action.
- Establishes a “just cause” standard that farmworkers can only be discharged for documented cause; legitimate economic layoffs; or the end of seasonal positions to protect workers from retaliation.

Every worker deserves a voice in creating safe, fair, and sustainable working conditions.

We strongly urge your support of HB 2548.

