

To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
From: Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos
Re: Support for [HB 2541](#)
Date: 03/19/2025

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

On behalf of Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2541 - workplace breastfeeding protections for farmworker women. Our organization is dedicated to supporting farmworkers and their families by ensuring they have access to vital resources and services, including legal assistance, immigration support, health programs, and advocacy against exploitation.

Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos strongly supports extending essential workplace breastfeeding protections to farmworker mothers because they have the right to access private, safe spaces for pumping. Returning to work in three months or less after giving birth is a significant challenge that many women in the agriculture industry face, and denying them the necessary time and private rooms to pump not only compromises their health and well-being but also undermines their ability to care for their children.

Breastfeeding is crucial for both the infant's development and the mother's health, yet farmworker mothers often face the harsh reality of working in environments where these fundamental rights are not upheld. Without proper accommodations, including private lactation spaces and flexible break times, many mothers are forced to make difficult choices between their health as well as their babies and their livelihoods. This bill is essential because it would create the legal framework for these workers to receive the protections they need, allowing them to provide nourishment to their infants without compromising their income.

Additionally, supporting breastfeeding in the workplace has significant long-term benefits for both employees and employers. Studies show that breastfeeding can reduce healthcare costs, improve employee productivity, and lower absenteeism rates. By passing this bill, we are not only advocating for the health of farmworker families but also promoting a more sustainable and productive agricultural workforce.

Therefore, it is critical that **HB2541** is passed to ensure that farmworker mothers receive the basic rights they deserve—rights that are essential for their health, their children's well-being, and the overall strength of the agricultural industry.

Farmworker women play a critical role in Oregon's agricultural industry, yet current law excludes certain seasonal and piece-rate workers from workplace lactation protections.

These mothers, who often return to work shortly after childbirth due to financial necessity, deserve the same rights and accommodations as other working parents. HB 2541 would close this gap, providing them with the protection to express milk in a safe and private environment.

Breastfeeding has well-documented health benefits for both mother and child, reducing risks of infant mortality, infections, and long-term health issues. However, without workplace accommodations, many mothers make the difficult decision to stop breastfeeding prematurely, limiting their ability to provide these nutritious benefits to their children. By ensuring all agricultural workers have access to legally protected lactation breaks, HB 2541 supports the well-being of working parents and promotes healthier outcomes for infants.

We urge this committee to support [HB 2541](#).

Sincerely,

Debbie Cabrales
Executive Director
Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos