



April 15, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the Policy Advocacy Director at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN aims to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

On behalf of our members, I am providing testimony in strong support of HB 2541 to extend workplace breastfeeding protections for farmworker women.

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.

HB 2541 is a simple, but an important step toward making sure farmworker moms can pump at work, giving them the support they need to keep breastfeeding and take care of their health. By closing the gap in current protections, this bill can make a real difference in the lives of farmworker women and their families.

We urge the committee to support HB 2541.

Thank you.

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Policy Advocacy Director
PCUN