



To: Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee

Re: Support HB 2548

Date: 5/29/2025

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We are in strong support of the -7 amendment to HB 2548 to provide focused study and review to learn more about Oregon farmworkers and their experiences in the workplace. Their voices are critical to maintain a strong economy and sustainable agriculture sector.

There are over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers who contribute over \$6.8 Billion dollars to our state's economy - yet on average they are making just \$34,500 annually, that is just barely over 200% of the federal poverty level. It is long overdue to provide focused engagement and understanding of the working conditions and opportunities for farmworkers.

It is unfortunate that a workforce standards board isn't able to move forward this session, especially given the attacks the federal administration is levying on workers that are straddling the poverty level and immigrants from Latin American countries. Most farmworkers are immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala and Central America. The least we can do in Oregon is make sure we understand the downstream impacts of current and past disproportionate impact and lack of support for this critical working sector. The more we know and understand, the better we are able to ensure thriving and strong communities in spite of the cruel policies that make life harder for low-income working people and immigrant populations. The stability of the food on our tables requires us to do at least this much.

Please vote yes on HB 2548 -7