



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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## In Historic Moment, House Democrats Pass Farmworker Overtime

*After 80 years of exclusion, House Bill 4002 B will ensure Oregon farmworkers receive overtime pay*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, Oregon House Democrats passed [House Bill 4002 B](#), which will ensure that farmworkers receive overtime pay, following eight decades of being excluded from these basic workplace protections.

Long hours without fair pay or access to affordable health care, coupled with unsafe working conditions, including pesticides and extreme weather, have led to shorter life expectancy for farmworkers and worse health outcomes for their families. The [average life expectancy](#) of a farmworker is just 49-years.

“This is about fair pay and equal treatment under the law,” said [Representative Andrea Salinas](#) (D-Lake Oswego), a chief sponsor of the bill. “Oregon’s farmworkers are essential. Throughout the pandemic, wildfires, and heatwave this summer, they have put their safety and health on the line to make sure our families are fed and we have food in stores. I’m proud that we showed up for them today.”

This marks a historic moment for farmworkers, who were originally excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, a landmark policy that introduced overtime pay, banned child labor, and established the minimum wage. Farmworkers at the time were predominantly Black. Today, [77% of farmworkers in Oregon are Latino](#).

“My parents are farmworkers right here in Oregon, and have been underpaid and overworked for over 40 years,” said [Representative Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn), whose family came to the U.S. from San Jerónimo Purenchécuaro, Michoacán. “This bill is about dignity for these working families. Today, my parents and farmworkers across the state finally feel seen and acknowledged for their contributions.”

The bill's passage follows three years of extensive conversations with Oregon's farmers, farmworkers, and advocates.

“After many years of discussion and compromise, we have a solution that will grant farmworkers the protections they have long been denied, and give farmers the support they need through this transition period,” said [Representative Paul Holvey](#) (D-Eugene), chief sponsor of the bill.

The bill will phase in overtime pay to give farmers time to adjust, establishing the maximum hours employers may require of agricultural workers before paying time-and-a-half for additional hours. It specifies maximum hours worked as:

- 55 hours per work week in 2023 and 2024;
- 48 hours per work week in 2025 and 2026; and
- 40 hours per work week in 2027 and beyond.

Eligible farms will also receive economic support through refundable personal and corporate income tax credit to help offset the added costs of paying overtime wages and is structured to support smaller farms.

Oregon joins seven states who have already adopted maximum hour and overtime requirements for farmworkers, including California, Washington, and New York.

The bill passed 37-23 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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