

Alaena Robbins
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Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Honorable Members of the Labor Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Alaena Robbins and I live in Limington. I am here as a farm worker, member of the Young Farmers Coalition Policy Committee, and hopefully a soon to be parent. I am writing today in opposition of the bills before the committee. I have been a farm worker in this state for ten years and have had to go through the stress of navigating the healthcare marketplace every December. I am grateful to even have access to somewhat affordable healthcare but it is still expensive to get the minimal care I have needed. In the last year, I have been undergoing infertility treatments, including IVF. Again, I am grateful to this state for passing a the fertility coverage mandate but treatments are still incredibly expensive - draining my savings every couple of months and maxing out my plan limits. Knowing that PFML was going to be an option for me for maternity leave has helped ease the stress of this process. Farm workers deserve the same rights as everyone else working in this state, and that includes access to life saving programs such as this. It is high time that we value farm workers as much as farm owners and other laborers. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.