

Testimony in Support of LD 1483 “An Act to Protect the Rights of Agricultural Workers”

April 17, 2023

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Claire Horne and I'm a resident of Appleton, ME. I am writing today to encourage you to join me in support of LD 1483: “An Act to Protect the Rights of Agricultural Workers”.

Agricultural workers, like all Maine workers, deserve to have unobstructed access to services and privacy. When workers are denied access to service providers, whether it be health care providers, legal advocates, education providers, members of the clergy, or anyone else they may need to see, they cannot get the care, support, and resources that they need. No one working in Maine in any industry should live in fear of retaliation from their employer because they need to seek services or council for any reason. In addition, all farm workers should be able to feel safe in the privacy of their residences. Employers should not be able to interfere with their employee's access to housing, or have the right to threaten their employee with losing access to housing. For agricultural workers who live where they work, it can create a harmful, even abusive dynamic when the workers cannot seek care, talk to members of the community, or depend on their housing being safe or private for fear of employer retaliation. I don't want this for anyone in my community. I want all workers, farm workers included, to be treated with respect.

LD 1483 protects essential farm worker's rights so that they don't need to live in fear, and can participate more fully in the community. This, in turn, helps us all. I hope you will support LD 1483, and protect the rights of agricultural workers.

Sincerely,
Claire Horne

Claire Horne
Appleton
LD 1483

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