

## Talking Points on the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017

- Please support the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017 (in the House, HR 2690 and in the Senate, S. 1034)
  - If already a cosponsor: Thank you for your support of the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017 (in the House, HR 2690 and in the Senate, S. 1034)
  - If not a cosponsor, please become one.
- Farmworkers perform the difficult and dangerous work of cultivating and harvesting the fruits, vegetables and other foods that help feed all Americans.
  - *If you have time, talk a little bit about the nature of the work- sharing details about how difficult it is to do.*
- Unfortunately, with the current threat of immigration enforcement and the terror it creates, farmworker families are fearful of being torn away from their families and communities.
- This fear impacts every aspect of a farmworker's life, from the ability to bring their children to school to the ability to report labor and health violations. This not only affects ~~us~~ farmworkers, but also their families, our communities and the nation's food system.
- *Share story about a farmworker you know who is impacted by immigration status/enforcement and why the legislation would help them*
- The Agricultural Worker Program Act recognizes the valuable role and contributions of farmworkers. The bill is important for farmworkers because it would take away the constant fear of deportation and allow families to stay together. This bill would also ensure a stable workforce for employers and a secure and safe food system for consumers.
- The Agricultural Worker Program Act would help address the current immigration crisis in agriculture by providing experienced farmworkers with a path to temporary immigration status, followed by an opportunity to earn lawful permanent residency through continued work in agriculture.
- This bill provides progress toward comprehensive immigration reform while addressing the unique and urgent needs of agricultural and rural communities.
- Please help farmworkers, their families and our communities and food system by cosponsoring the Agricultural Worker Program Act.
- Thank you for your time and support.

## H-2A

- We are very concerned about the rapid expansion of the H-2A program.
- Although the H-2A program does include modest protections, there need to be stronger protections and greater enforcement of the protections because the workers are very vulnerable to abuse.
- Please oppose legislation to expand the H-2A program and to weaken the protections.