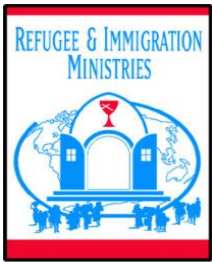


Disciples: Call to Support Farmworkers Now Thru July 13th!

When: Before end of Wed., July 13th!! What: CALL OR VISIT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES to URGE them to co-sponsor the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017.



Farm worker organizations and allies are seeking to have 100 co-sponsors before the end of Wednesday, July 13th. Please help reach the goal. As of July 5th, there were only 50 sponsors!

The Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017 has been introduced in both the Senate (S1034) and the House (HR 2690). The bill will address current farm labor shortages and will provide a path to citizenship for farm workers.

How: CALL your Senators and Representative in their home districts AND/OR in Washington, DC. Use the talking points at the end of this alert for further information, and also go here for an analysis of the bill from Farmworker Justice:

<http://www.farmworkerjustice.org/sites/default/files/Feinstein%20Ag%20Worker%20Bill%20Fact%20Sheet%20-5-3-17.pdf>. You can find a flyer in English here: http://nfwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FW-Bill-One-Pager-Color-ENGLISH.pdf?utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email and in Spanish here: http://nfwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FW-Bill-One-Pager-Color-SPANISH.pdf?utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email

Let your legislators know that value the people whose labor puts food on our tables every day! Personal contact with your legislator is the most effective way to get them to act and we ask you make that effort. If you cannot call or visit, please utilize the [E-mail Action](#) here:

http://action.ufw.org/page/speakout/immig617?utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email, which has been set up by the United Farm Workers.

Primary message: Our Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Disciples Center for Public Witness, and Disciples Justice Action Network have all signed onto an organizational support letter for the AWPA. [See letter here.](#)

<https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/DHM-Letter-Support-Ag-Worker-Program-Act.pdf>

- Please, will you also support the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017 (in the House, HR 2690 and in the Senate, S. 1034) as a co-sponsor?
 - 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.
- 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.

Go here for a list of current AWPA [co-sponsors in the Senate](#):

https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1034/cosponsors?utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email

and [in the House](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2690/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+2690%22%5D%7D&r=1&utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email): https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2690/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+2690%22%5D%7D&r=1&utm_source=AWPA+ActionAlertJune2017&utm_campaign=AWPA+Action+Alert&utm_medium=email

. If your legislator(s) are already signed-on, please thank them!

For more about this legislation, go to NFWM's website at nfwf.org for links to a fact sheet by Farmworker Justice and to the entire bill as submitted first to the Senate and then to the House.

Share this Action Alert: Then, make a photo after you've made your call or visit!!

To let us know about the action you took or for more information, email Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, at: ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org, or call to: 202-957-7826.

Let's be overwhelming as we press for justice! Contact your legislators by the end of July 13th!

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) o 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) o 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. o 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 as 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 Program:

- 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.

Want more info.? Contact Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, at: ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org, 202-957-7826.

*RIM is a ministry of DHM,
in partnership with the Christian Church (Capital Area) and the Disciples Center for Public Witness)*