

The Friends Committee on Legislation strongly affirms the value of all who work in food production. We recognize that of God in everyone; therefore, we feel compelled to single out the farm worker. We support legislation which seeks to give agricultural workers parity with other workers, while emphasizing that the unique circumstances of agricultural employment require special protection for farm workers. Practices which degrade workers, such as low wages, unfair overtime, the use of child labor, exposure to toxic chemicals, or disregard of protective health measures, are unacceptable.

Therefore, we support legislation which provides protection for farm workers, whether citizens, immigrants, or here under special arrangements. We advocate for:

- (1) continued farm worker representation on the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, as well as the provision of adequate staff to enforce the Board's function in a vigorous manner;
- (2) full support of democratic, non-violent farm worker union activity;
- (3) protection of workers hired through labor contractors to assure that the workers are not isolated from protections they would have if working directly for growers;
- (4) protection of farm workers and their families from hazards of the work place by eliminating avoidable hazards, and eliminating exposure to toxic chemicals,
- (5) safe and humane working conditions including access to clean water
- (6) workers' benefits including social security, employer-paid medical insurance where workers are not already covered by medical insurance, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance coverage, and access to health care. All worker benefits must include portability between employers.
- (7) availability of publicly and privately financed affordable housing that meet health and safety standards, including during times of involuntary unemployment;
- (8) access to education that compensates for the family mobility that agricultural work often requires.

Approved by FCLCA General Meeting, 12/04/10.