



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF FARMWORKER JUSTICE
ON THE HOUSE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE'S HEARING ON ICE WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT**

The Immigration Subcommittee in the House of Representatives begins its work to oversee the country's immigration policy on January 26th with a hearing on workplace enforcement. Farmworker Justice strongly believes that we must fix our broken immigration system. The *status quo* for farmworkers and agricultural businesses is untenable and must be reformed. Over 50% of farmworkers are undocumented. The lack of immigration status contributes to the significant problems in agricultural workplaces and communities: low wages, poor working conditions, pesticide poisoning, and substandard housing. While some argue that these problems will be solved by better enforcement of immigration laws, enforcement alone will not solve the challenges farmworkers face nor provide employers with the stable, productive workforce they need. Our nation's broken immigration system needs a lasting solution, which must include a path to immigration status.

Farmworker Justice is a national advocacy organization for migrant and seasonal farmworkers with thirty years of experience on immigration and labor policy.