

# A FARM BILL FOR A THRIVING FUTURE FOR US ALL



## SECURING DIGNITY AND FAIRNESS FOR FOOD CHAIN WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The 21.5 million people who work in our food and farm system are its foundation. Yet since its inception, the farm bill has excluded these working people from consideration in policy making. Until congress prioritizes the safety and well-being of working people, our food system will not be equitable or sustainable. The HEAL Food Alliance recommends that the 2023 Farm Bill include a **Labor title** that supports and protects all food workers and their families. We strongly urge Congress to adopt the following labor recommendations in the upcoming Farm Bill.

### Expand and Equalize Labor Laws

- Ensure the safety of all food chain workers by increasing federal funding for safety oversight for all workers.
- Provide and improve worker protections from exposures to harmful working conditions, including extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and pesticides, and provide disaster relief to affected workers.
- Provide protections for public health emergencies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), severance pay, paid sick leave, and healthcare.
- Require monthly safety trainings provided in workers' first language.
- Enact mandatory maximum line speed and maximum number of repetitive motions per minute or per hour for processing plants.
- Enact the policies in the Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act.

### Improve Oversight of Federal Funding

- Cut USDA and other federal funding and contracts — including procurement contracts — with operators who engage in bad labor practices, including retaliation against workers who speak out about conditions consistent with the policies of Good Food Communities.
- Fund clean, safe, and dignified housing for farmworkers that is not tied to the employer.

*The HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance is a national multi-sector, multi-racial coalition. HEAL is led by its member-organizations, who represent about two million rural and urban farmers, ranchers, fishers, farm and food chain workers, Indigenous groups, scientists, public health advocates, and community organizers united in their commitment to transformed food systems.*