



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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County Administrator, **Gerardo Pinedo**
Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

June 13, 2024

Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing
1021 O Street, Suite 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2240 (ARAMBULA) – FARMWORKER HOUSING- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 2240 (Arambula), a bill that ensures farmworkers are treated with dignity and respect reflective of the essential contribution they make to California's agricultural economy and local communities. AB 2240 ensures that Yolo County farmworkers and their families are not separated and that their children's education is not interrupted by providing rental housing year-round.

Before modern migratory farmworker housing centers were established, many lived in overcrowded, substandard motel rooms, makeshift shacks, or near orchards and streams without plumbing or safety. In response, the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) in the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) was formed in 1965 to provide migrant farmworkers and their families with affordable, seasonal rental housing from April to November.

OMS currently operates 24 migratory farmworker housing centers, sheltering 10,000 people every year. These centers are located in Modoc, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo, Solano, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Merced, Madera, Fresno, and Kern counties. As a carryover from the days of the single migrant worker, all centers still close in the off-season except San Diego and Napa.

Over the years, farmworker demographics have shifted. The majority of farmworkers are no longer migratory single men but rather are settled with families. In 2020, only eight percent of the state's farmworker population identified as migrants. To be eligible to live at a center, a farmworker must reside outside of a 50-mile radius of the center for a minimum of three months. This is devastating to children whose school years do not align with these closures and to families who are required to separate as a condition of residency. As more families establish themselves generationally and contribute to the communities in which they reside, migratory farmworker housing programs must evolve to serve this new paradigm.

For these reasons, Yolo County strongly supports AB 2240 (Arambula) and we request an AYE vote on this measure. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. For any questions about the County's position, please contact Cindy Perez in the County Administrator's Office at (530) 666-8114 or cindy.perez@yolocounty.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucas Frerichs".

Lucas Frerichs
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Bill Dodd
Senate Committee on Housing Members, and Staff
Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Author