



SR0688

LRB104 21231 LAW 35832 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Farmworkers have long formed the backbone of the
3 American food system, providing the labor that feeds families
4 across the nation while often working under some of the most
5 difficult and dangerous conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, For generations, farmworkers, many of them
7 immigrants and living in poverty, have endured long hours,
8 extreme heat and cold, low wages, unsafe workplaces, and
9 limited legal protections, all while sustaining one of the
10 most essential sectors of our economy; and

11 WHEREAS, The modern farmworker movement was built not by
12 any single individual but by thousands of workers who
13 organized, marched, and sacrificed to demand dignity, fair
14 treatment, and basic human rights; and

15 WHEREAS, Filipino labor leaders, including Larry Itliong,
16 Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco, and Andy Imutan, were among
17 the first to launch major strikes that reshaped the
18 agricultural labor landscape, standing alongside Mexican and
19 Latino farmworkers to form a historic multiracial coalition
20 for justice; and

21 WHEREAS, Mexican and Latino farmworkers played a central

1 role in the movement, including the late Marcos Munoz, a
2 resident of Chicago's Little Village community, whose tireless
3 organizing and leadership in the New England grape boycott
4 helped secure some of the first union contracts for
5 agricultural workers in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Women were essential to the movement's success,
7 sustaining boycotts, leading community efforts, protecting
8 families, and ensuring that the struggle for justice reflected
9 the experiences of those most affected; and

10 WHEREAS, Children also carried the weight of this
11 movement, marching alongside their parents, enduring economic
12 hardship, and becoming symbols of the future that farmworkers
13 were fighting to protect; and

14 WHEREAS, The courage and persistence of these workers led
15 to some of the most significant labor victories in American
16 history, including improved wages and working conditions,
17 protections from harmful pesticides, and the recognition of
18 farmworkers' right to organize and bargain collectively; and

19 WHEREAS, The farmworker movement has always been rooted in
20 the belief that every person, regardless of race, language,
21 immigration status, or economic background, deserves dignity,
22 safety, and the ability to provide for their family without

1 fear or exploitation; and

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to thousands of farmworkers and
3 food-chain workers whose labor sustains our communities and
4 whose contributions deserve recognition, respect, and
5 continued advocacy; and

6 WHEREAS, Honoring farmworkers means recognizing the
7 collective struggle that made progress possible, acknowledging
8 the sacrifices of those who risked their livelihoods to demand
9 justice, and committing ourselves to protecting workers today
10 and in the future; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 31,
13 2026 as Farmworkers Day in the State of Illinois in
14 recognition of the essential contributions and sacrifices of
15 farmworkers past and present; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we recognize the multiracial,
17 intergenerational coalition of workers, including men, women,
18 and children, whose collective action transformed labor rights
19 in this country; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we honor the courage, resilience, and
21 contributions of farmworkers in the State of Illinois and

1 across the United States.