

Resolution 2020-1 Urging San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California State Legislature, and U.S. Congress to Protect Farmworkers During COVID-19 and Pesticide Exposure with Personal Protection Equipment
adopted April 16, 2020

WHEREAS, Farmworkers on the frontlines continue to risk their lives feeding a nation on lockdown. The federal government declared farmworkers essential workers, but most continue to work without proper personal protection equipment (PPE), accurate information on how to protect themselves or about the risks involved in their essential labor, and access to healthcare. Farmworkers frequently commute and live in crowded conditions that make them more vulnerable to pandemics like COVID 19 and even with exposure to pesticides, yet they are the driving force that keeps the nation's grocery stores stocked.

WHEREAS, More than a third of U.S. farmworkers live in California, 92% are Latino and help produce a third of the nation's vegetables and more than 350 food commodities, between 60% 75 of them are undocumented, and were not included in state and federal relief efforts that might smooth efforts for other frontline workers to acquire COVID 19-related access to healthcare, emergency childcare, emergency funds, and or personal protective equipment. They pay taxes and contribute billions to our economy, but they must live in the shadows. In the COVID-19 pandemic, they've been left on their own.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee urge San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California State Legislature, and U.S. Congress to include all farmworkers in efforts to protect and insure frontline workers' safety. Farmworkers have always done the essential work of feeding the nation for little reward and with few codified protections or benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee directs the corresponding secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to the aforementioned elected officials representing San Mateo County.