



**MICHAEL BENNET**  
U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

### **Affordable and Secure Food Act**

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.)

Food prices continue to rise at exuberant rates. In 2023, food prices increased by 5.8% across all sectors. Rising food costs squeeze family budgets and force impossible choices between food, groceries, medicine, and housing. Although there are many contributors to rising food prices, a key driver is the acute shortage of skilled farm labor. When producers lack enough workers, it restricts supply and increases labor costs. This not only drives up food prices; it also drives many farmers and ranchers out of business.

It is long past time we reform and strengthen the H-2A visa program and bring undocumented farm workers out of the shadows to reduce food prices, support American growers, and secure our nation's food supply. In addition, it would require employers to respect farm workers' the narrow right to accept guests, including unions and key service providers.

The Affordable and Secure Food Act will:

- Reform the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program by providing H- 2A visas for year-round jobs for the first time, modernizing the application process, creating more wage certainty, and ensuring critical protections for H-2A farm workers.
- Establish a program for agricultural workers, along with their spouses and minor children, to earn legal status. Farm workers in the program may earn a path to a green card after 10 years of agriculture work.
- Establish a mandatory, nationwide electronic verification system for all agricultural employment, with high standards for privacy and accuracy.
- Lower the cost of and increase access to farm worker and rural housing.
- Strengthen protections against employer retaliation by explicitly adding consultation with a key service provider as a protected activity. This would also include self-organization and union-related activities as a protected activity.

The Affordable and Secure Food Act reflects years of close input from farmers and ranchers, agricultural workers, and labor organizations. All of them understand that our broken H-2A program hurts families, farm workers, and the agriculture sector in the U.S. while creating needless risk to America's vital food supplies.

The Affordable and Secure Food Act is supported by: Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP), Care in Action, CASA, Child Labor Coalition, Justice for Migrant Women, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Consumers League, UFW Foundation, United Farm Workers, Voto Latino, CRLA Foundation, FLAP- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.