

## **2026 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Written Testimony**

### **Written Testimony in Support of NY4All**

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To the Members of the New York State Legislature:

My name is Andrea Salinas, and I am an organizer with Alianza Agrícola. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

I urge the Legislature to advance New York for All as part of New York's budget priorities. New York for All is essential to protecting public safety, human rights, and dignity of farmworkers and the stability of New York's agricultural economy.

Farmworkers are the backbone of New York agriculture. They wake up early every morning to milk cows, feed calves, and work long hours in extreme New York temperatures, whether it is freezing cold, pouring rain, or extreme heat. They dedicate twelve hours a day, six days a week to this work. There are no holidays. Animals must be milked daily, births must be monitored, and livestock must be fed. Missing even one day of milking can cause cows to become sick or, in some cases, die.

NY immigrant farmworkers are people with families and loved ones. They are here to work, provide for their families, and help this state and country progress. Yet, they are often targeted, persecuted, and discriminated against. The collusion between local police and ICE has had a devastating impact on NY farmworkers and their families, creating a culture of fear that no New Yorker should have to experience. Fear and lack of trust with local agencies prevents immigrant workers from reporting crimes, going to the hospital, or driving their kids to school. Oftentimes, farm owners will also take advantage of these forms of collusion between law enforcement and ICE by threatening to call police on workers who dare to speak out about workplace abuses, wage theft, or other forms of labor violation, knowing they will be disappeared once handed over into ICE custody. Allowing state and local agencies to be complicit in carrying out Trump's violent deportation agenda is a direct attack on farmworker families, their safety, and basic human rights. The New York for All Act is the only comprehensive legislative solution that NY state can take to protect immigrant communities.

Immigrants are in the shadows. People see fresh vegetables on their tables, a glass of milk, or cheese at breakfast, but they may never consider the labor behind it or the process it took to bring that food to their table. That labor belongs to immigrants. They are milking cows, picking

apples, onions, peaches, and many of the fruits and vegetables New Yorkers depend on. Most dairy products in the state are produced by immigrant hands.

NY is in a crisis and the Legislature must act quickly to address the countless abuses happening across the state. A simple traffic stop can lead to detention and deportation. Children go to school worried about whether their parents will be home when they return. This fear also affects farms and employers. If an experienced worker is detained or cannot show up, farms face financial losses, disruptions, and instability. Employers understand how difficult it is to find skilled and reliable workers for this demanding work.

New York for All ensures that state and local resources are diverted to carry out ICE's state-sanctioned violence against New York communities. Countless data shows that strong anti-collusion laws that allow all people to engage with government institutions without fear, increase public safety for everyone. It allows people to report crime, access health care, send their children to school, and go to work without fear of being questioned about their immigration status. New York for All would, improve public safety, and keep NY communities healthy and stable.

According to the January 23, 2025 report *The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Mass Deportation: What's at Risk in New York* by the Fiscal Policy Institute and the Immigration Research Initiative, in 2022, people who are undocumented paid an estimated \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes in New York. If just one out of ten people who are undocumented were deported or put into detention camps, that would result in a loss of \$310 million in state and local tax revenue. This is approximately the cost of extending free school meals to all children in New York public schools. More than half of all farmworkers in the United States are immigrants. Deporting them would jeopardize New York's food supply and threaten the survival of farms across the state.

Including New York for All in this budget is an investment in public safety, worker protections, economic stability, and the future of New York agriculture. Immigrants deserve peace, dignity, and a true sense of belonging in the communities they sustain.

It is time to act and pass New York for All.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

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