

My name is Fabiola Velasquez. I am a community organizer with Fe y Justicia in Central Minnesota. Part of my job is to train and educate workers about their rights, especially farm, meatpacking and agriculture workers. For the past year I have been doing presentations, handing out fact sheets and informing employers and employees about Earned Sick and Safe Time. For this reason I have heard many stories about the importance of earning time to take care of ourselves. This not only allows workers to seek medical attention, take care of their family or rest when sick, it also prevents the spread of disease in essential jobs such as agriculture, farms, and meatpacking. We need to make sure our frontline workers are healthy and protected, as they work the longest hours and have the fewest opportunities for rest. There have been cases of wage theft in our area and for that reason it is also very important that we have laws that remunerate all the work that these people do.

Thank you!