

Good afternoon, My name is Ma Elena Gutierrez, Executive Director of Fe y Justicia. I have been organizing with workers for more than 10 years and one of the issues that most touches my heart is the work that our members do on the farms, no matter what happens in their lives or what the weather is like. They share with me testimonies that motivate me to continue in this work. When I ask them what day of the week they take off to see the doctor and have a physical check-up, they tell me that there is no rest here. The animals eat every day and the cows have to be cured, milked two or three times a day and if we don't milk them they get sick. I have to work whether I am sick or not because if I take a day off they fire me or the treatment is different. I am very happy that this new law has been passed because it will help us to be respected when we have an emergency to go to the doctor.

The ESST law is very necessary so that workers have their dignity respected and can feel free to take care of their health and not fall into an emergency. It's only 48 paid hours a year. They deserve more than 48 hours. How can they possibly fight to eliminate ESST when they benefit from their work? Workers are human beings who also need to take care of themselves.