

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 122 Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, GALLAGHER AND WILSON, JULY 1, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JULY 2, 1975

In the House of Representatives, July 1, 1975

1 Statistics show that the 2,600,000 farm workers in the United
2 States are the most deprived working group in this country; that
3 they have a life expectancy of only 49 years; that they are more
4 than twice as likely to lose infants and mothers at childbirth;
5 that they are three times as susceptible to influenza,
6 tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases as the national
7 average; that they will probably not reach high school; that
8 they suffer from poor housing, averaging only two rooms, often
9 with no sink, shower or tub; that they are the lowest paid
10 income group in the country; that by moving from job to job
11 there is little or no opportunity for them to secure a home or a
12 stable family life.

13 It is recognized that all workers have a right to participate
14 in decisions affecting their lives by forming or choosing labor
15 unions to represent their best interests and by helping to
16 improve their working conditions and benefits.

17 The United Farm Workers is a labor union made up of migrant
18 farm workers, who are most familiar with the circumstances of

1 the lives of farm workers, most concerned with their welfare,
2 and best able to promote their genuine interests.

3 The Gallo Wine Company, the largest winemaker in the United
4 States, after repeatedly acknowledging that their workers wanted
5 United Farm Workers representation, refused to accept the UFW as
6 the farm workers' agent.

7 Whenever the Gallo Wine Company refused to allow its workers
8 to freely select membership in the labor union of their choice,
9 a boycott of Gallo wine products was initiated by the UFW and
10 endorsed by many major religious bodies and other groups in the
11 United States in an attempt to compel the Gallo Wine Company to
12 allow their workers to select a union of their choice.

13 The growers of California and Arizona table grapes and the
14 growers of Western Iceberg head lettuce have also fought hard to
15 deny the farm workers the benefits that other workers in our
16 country have long enjoyed.

17 The citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have always
18 shown compassion and concern for people who suffer from
19 injustices and oppression; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the sentiment of the House of Representatives
21 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is in support of the
22 migrant farm workers' quest for a more dignified life. It
23 recommends that all Commonwealth agencies cease purchasing
24 California and Arizona table grapes as well as Western Iceberg
25 head lettuce unless such products bear the United Farm Workers
26 Aztec Eagle label; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That State liquor stores cease purchasing Gallo
28 wine products until such time as the Gallo Wine Company, the
29 employers in the lettuce and grape industry of California and
30 Arizona:

1 (1) Grant their farm workers the opportunity to hold secret
2 ballot elections to freely select membership in the labor
3 organization of their choice.

4 (2) Deal with the most basic issues (hiring hall, pesticide
5 restrictions, effective seniority and job security protections,
6 decent living and working conditions, etc.) while bargaining in
7 good faith.

8 (3) Sign effective and strong contracts guaranteeing justice
9 and constitutional rights to farm workers.