

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Immigrant Families Coronavirus Relief Fund

Dear Representative Catherine Toll and Committee Assistant Theresa Utton:

I am urging the House Appropriations Committee to support the \$2,000,000 amount recommended by Gov. Scott for the Immigrant Families Coronavirus Relief Fund. If Vermont is sharing millions of federal funds with dairy farms hurt in the pandemic, Vermont must also share a significant portion of those funds with the essential workers who keep those farms functioning by feeding and caring for the livestock and cleaning out the barns. When farmers are unable to pay their bills, they are also unable to pay those who keep their farms running.

While our immigrant farmworkers may be invisible to most Vermonters, they live and work in difficult, often unjust conditions, and have experienced more fear for their lives in the last 4 years.

Vermont must recognize their humanity, dignity and contribution to the Vermont economy by fully supporting the Immigrant Families Coronavirus Relief Fund. There are approximately 1500 farmworkers in Vermont, and they need income to live and feed themselves.

Respectfully,
Sylvia Knight