



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
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**Civil Rights Commission Visits Communities, Collecting Testimony
on the State of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers**

Lansing, MI – On July 15, 2009, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission started accepting testimony on the state of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Michigan. A series of visits will take place to speak with migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others in the agricultural industry. Testimony may be submitted at any of the announced local forums, a Commission meeting scheduled for August 24th in Sparta, or in writing to the Department. All testimony, which will result in a Commission report to be released later this year, must be received by the August 24th Commission meeting.

The scheduled visits are as follows:

July 30 – St. Peter the Apostle Church, 309 S. Lane St., Blissfield, MI 49228
August 5 - Bear Lake Migrant Head Start, 10101 Nurnberger Road, Bear Lake, MI 49614
August 13 - Watervliet Migrant Head Start, 745 North M-140, Watervliet, MI 49098
August 18 – Bay/Arenac Migrant Head Start, 2801 Sterling Road, Omer, MI 48749

With the exception of the Blissfield visit, testimony can be submitted to Commission and Department staff at these locations between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm on each date. Testimony for the July 30th Blissfield visit will be accepted between 7:00 pm and 9:00pm. Anonymous testimony will be accepted. Spanish language translation and child care services will be available for those wishing to

testify. In addition to representatives from all aspects of the agricultural industry, the Commission is also accepting testimony from representatives of government and social service agencies.

Written testimony should be submitted between now and August 24, 2009. Please submit to: Harold Core, Director of Public Affairs, MI Department of Civil Rights, 110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

This effort is a collaboration between several entities, including the Department of Civil Rights, Farmworker Legal Services, Telemon Migrant Head Start and the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. The purpose of the effort is to ensure that Michigan can continue to attract migrant and seasonal farmworkers, who are critical to the agricultural industry. The agriculture industry is the second largest industry in Michigan, and critical to the state's economy.

For more information on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>. For more information on Farmworker Legal Services, visit www.farmworkerlaw.org.

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