

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat, mahal na tagapangulo at mga miyembro ng komite. Ako si Caitlin Gatchalian, at buong puso akong sumusuporta sa AB 83(walumpong tatlo) upang kilalanin ang Larry Itliong Day.

(Good morning to all of you, esteemed vice chair and committee members. My name is Caitlin Gatchalian CAITLIN GATCHALIAN and I am here in strong support of AB 83 to recognize Larry Itliong Day.)

Larry Itliong was a pioneer, a fearless labor organizer, and a champion for workers' rights. His leadership in the 1965 Delano Grape Strike was instrumental in securing better wages and working conditions, not just for Filipino farmworkers, but for generations of laborers across the country. Yet, his contributions—and those of the thousands of Filipinos who stood alongside him—have been largely overlooked in our history books.

As a Filipino American working in the political space, I understand how vital it is to see ourselves in the history we learn and the movements we support. When we recognize Larry Itliong, we affirm the legacy of AAPI leaders who fought for justice before us. We remind future generations that they, too, can lead, organize, and demand change.

By passing AB 83, we ensure that Larry Itliong's story is not forgotten, and we honor the sacrifices made by those who came before us. This is more than just a day of recognition—it is a reaffirmation of our place in history and our role in shaping the future.

I am happy to support Larry Itliong Day. I think of my daughter, that she won't struggle and feel so alone in these spaces the way I did, not knowing her history and having to work so hard to find it. This is for all the young FilAms who want to be seen and for our elders and ancestors to continue to be remembered. May we always honor them.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. (Thank you all very much.)