



Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee,

My name is Eva Rippeteau, I am a political coordinator for Oregon AFSCME Council 75. Our members include child care and early learning providers, and case managers and public health workers that connect families to critical supports and benefits such as WIC. We know that making sure kids have access to nutrition is foundational to their growth, development and future success at school and beyond. For these reasons we support both HB 2626 and HB 2639.

For families struggling to meet ends meet, giving access to WIC could be the difference between a child getting the nutrition that they need or not. We know that it is in the first five years of a child's life that they experience the fastest rate of brain development. We also know that proper nutrition is essential for their growth and development and lays a foundation for success in school and beyond. If a family isn't accessing other programs such as day care or preschool where the child and has access to provided meals, WIC is that link to getting them what they need.

Please pass HB 2626 and HB 2639.