



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
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May 3, 2021

TO: Senate Education Committee
FR: Parasa Chanramy, COSA
RE: Letter of Support for [HB 2536](#)

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Parasa Chanramy and on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we encourage you to support House Bill 2536.

This bill will help improve access to school meals by requiring that schools and districts offer lunch and breakfast at no charge to students if: (i) the school or district meets the requirements of federal meal programs, or if (ii) students are from households with incomes that do not exceed 300% of federal poverty guidelines.

Before the pandemic, 1 in 10 Oregonians experienced food insecurity. That number has doubled during the global pandemic. And now, 1 in 4 -- an estimated 1 million Oregonians -- are struggling with hunger and food insecurity. Moreover, our students and families of color are disproportionately impacted and experience food insecurity at higher rates ([Oregon Hunger Task Force, 2020](#)).

HB 2536 is focused on removing barriers, both real and perceived, when it comes to accessing school meals. We believe that this bill is an important step in helping address food insecurity among our students.

Additionally, HB 2536 is intended to be complementary to the school meal improvements outlined in the Student Success Act technical update bill (HB 2060) which is written to help expand access to school meals and ensure that the meal reimbursement process is more fair and consistent.

Our members urge you to pass HB 2536 and look forward to working with the Department of Education, school nutrition directors, and many other stakeholders to ensure that children across Oregon are able to access school meals.

Thank you for your consideration.