



Date: February 3, 2022

To: House Committee on Human Services

From: Ames Kessler, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Re: Support for HB 4088

Chair Williams, Vice Chairs Ruiz and Sharf, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4088. My name is Ames Kessler and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO). PHFO is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger.

Many seniors, people with disabilities, and houseless people who qualify for SNAP are unable to prepare or cook meals due to lack of access to a kitchen, mobility/motor skill issues, safety concerns, etc. Other states have addressed this by applying to and building the structures necessary to participate in the Federal Restaurant Meals Program. We believe access to hot meals is beneficial to both your physical and mental health and is something all people deserve.

[PHFO urges your support for HB 4088.](#)

Sincerely,

Ames Kessler

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon