



SB 610: **Testimony in Support**

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (**COIN**), I am writing to express **support** for Senate Bill **610**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

SB 610 would establish the **Food For All Oregonians (FFOA)** program to provide nutrition assistance to residents of this state who would qualify for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but for immigration status.

In addition, this legislation requires the Department of Human Services to convene an advisory group to recommend metrics to evaluate success of the department in treating all applicants for and recipients of public assistance in a welcoming manner and with respect, courtesy, fairness and dignity.

Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. The bill under consideration, SB 610, would provide state funding to partially address this inequity and deliver much needed assistance currently denied by SNAP. All Oregonians benefit when the basic needs of everyone in our community are met.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon that collaborate to protect democracy and implement progressive values through voter outreach and education, campaigns and elections, holding our elected leaders accountable, and advocating for legislation that best reflects our values.

The members of our network have endorsed passage of this legislation and joined the coalition of groups in support. **We urge you to pass the bill, SB 610, into law.**

Sincerely,

John Detweiler

COIN Legislative Team, Indivisible Sisters