

Submitter: Stacey Boatright
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB610

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing in support of SB 610, 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.

Hunger was a crisis in our communities before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees, and Compact of Free Association community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. People who are excluded include Oregonians who are essential to sustaining food production, childcare, healthcare institutions, education, transportation, and other critical services throughout the state.

SB 610 will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP, build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety, and make applying for assistance more welcoming and culturally responsive. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon-in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

I urge your yes vote on SB 610.

Thank you,

-Stacey Boatright
Portland Resident & Member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - St. Johns