

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

My name is Melisa Lopez and I live in Albany, Oregon. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 610, Food For All Oregonians. This bill would ensure all our neighbors have access to the food they need to keep themselves and their families healthy regardless of immigration status.

Food security is a human right and a basic need. It is a vital necessity, yet many lack access. What does food insecurity look like to those who face barriers to providing food for their families? As someone who works with families and the community, I have witnessed what that looks like for children and parents. Aside from stomach aches, headaches, and body weakness from the lack of nourishment, food insecurity causes stress that often leads to a lack of concentration. It affects people's performance at the workplace and, in the case of children, their performance in the classroom. A family not having access to food creates a ripple effect that affects the community. An undocumented family not having access to food would be an act of deprivation. It would be an act of denial of a basic biological human need. It would be a dehumanizing act.

Water, clothing, sleep, shelter, and food are essential human needs. Happy and healthy families do, perform and achieve better when they have access to bare necessities for survival. Food should not be a barrier to any family in Oregon.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 610.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Melisa Lopez