

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

My name is Zane Grace and I live in Eugene, Oregon and I am writing in **support of 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.

I support this bill because affected immigrants and refugees in our communities do not have a realistic pathway to achieve citizenship and, by extension, access the same opportunities and benefits that citizens are afforded. While immigration reform is a much larger issue, I believe that Bill 610 will provide immediate help to food-insecure families who need it in the short term, until broader progress on immigration reform can be reached at a state or national level.

Hunger was a challenge in our communities before COVID-19, and the food insecurity impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on Hispanic, Black, American Indian, and Pacific Islander households.¹ These are many of the same communities impacted by food insecurity due to immigration status.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. It will expand opportunity, promote awareness, and build on successful, community-driven models.

Studies show that when we all have access to food, we're all better off² – that kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. For both altruistic and economic reasons, reducing food insecurity in our communities will help Oregon to thrive.

This is why I am writing for your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Zane Grace

1

https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon_food_insecurity_rates_at_arrival_of_covid_2018-2020.pdf

2

[Impacts of Hunger on the Economy | Iowa Food Bank Association \(iowafba.org\)](https://www.iowafba.org/impacts-of-hunger-on-the-economy)