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On Behalf Of: Eastern Oregon University
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB610

As an islander student living in La Grande, food insecurity is something I struggled with since I came. I came to learn that paying bills are important and it has become more important than my food (basically my health too). I live paycheck to paycheck and with what money I would have left for food after paying bills and some essential needs, I can only afford to buy prepackaged chicken (more count and cheapest), prepackaged hotdogs, and canned meats. In buying food, I choose food that are cheap, can last longer, and that can be filling to my stomach. Sometimes or rarely, I would buy vegetables and/or fruits. Fruits have become a treat to myself. As a student, it stresses me out when I have to manage my bills, my needs, my job, and my studies at the same time. It adds to my burdens which is also the same for every student in La Grande. It greatly affects my mental health and physical health. The SB 610 will greatly benefit the islander community supporting the islander students and providing an opportunity for them to get nutritious food, get a peace of mind, and to focus more on their studies.