

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Hello. I am Kapiolani Micky and I am from Micronesia. I live in Salem. I am from Chuuk, one of the six communities that make up the Compact of Free Association (COFA). I am in support of SB 610: Food for All Oregonians bill.

SB 610 Food for All Oregonians will make a difference in my community. Most of the people in my community are not eligible for SNAP benefits because they are not U.S. citizens. Members of my community are struggling to provide healthy food for themselves and their families. As a result, families tend to buy groceries with a limited shelf-life. These tend to be processed foods, many of which have high salt or fat content, which further harms our community. The increase in the cost of food is affecting our ability to pay our bills. Families are having a hard time keeping up with rent and bills which makes it difficult to provide food for the family.

I am a mother of six children, two of whom are now adults. Not too long ago, I was a stay-at-home mom as my husband worked. We saved his paycheck for our rent, but sometimes, we did not have enough food to eat. This was even after going to the monthly food pantry when my husband could drive us to get food. I made sure that there was enough food for my husband and my children, but I opted to forgo eating. When my children asked why I was not eating, I would tell them that I ate while cooking the food. Not being eligible for SNAP benefits has been hard for my family. I do not want others to go through what my family experienced.

I urge you to support SB 610, Food for all Oregonians, to ensure that all Oregon residents, regardless of their citizenship, have access to quality and nutritious food. No one should go hungry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kapi Micky