

February 27,2023

Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Senate Bill 610

My greetings to you, Chair Senator Blouin, Vice-Chair Senator Robinson and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Iakwe, my name is Rubyna Hemon. I live in La Grande and work full-time for a non-profit organization called Micronesian Islander Community (MIC). I am a Community Health Worker and part of their staff, and I am currently a student at Eastern University and raising a child at the same time. Since 2020, I have been living in Oregon, where I am originally from the Marshall Islands.

Globally, hunger is one of the top issues people are facing today. We Oregonians are also facing this crisis. Food deprivation causes many families to become homeless.

In light of this, I am writing this testimony in support of Senate Bill 610 (SB 610) because I believe that it will have a positive effect on Oregonians. SB 610 will, however, facilitate access to food for individuals and families who are in need of food or who are struggling to make ends meet. A number of other benefits can be derived from this bill, including reducing hunger and improving overall health and well-being for all Oregonians. Furthermore, this bill is designed to prevent homelessness, increase stability, and improve overall quality of life.

As I conclude my testimony, I am confident that this bill will bring joy and prosperity to all Oregonians. I believe that passing this bill will set positive examples for our neighboring states and countries as a result of its greatness and results. In the same way that united we are one, and food is for all, we must all eat!

Thank you/Komoltata

Rubyna Hemon