

February 27, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda  
RE: Support for SB 610

Dear Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 610. My name is Marsh M Santoro, and I live in Fairview, Oregon.

I'm writing to support SB 610: Food for All Oregonians, a top 2023 Children's Agenda priority. Oregon has diligently worked to expand access for immigrants and refugees to health care, coverage, and other basic rights. However, many communities do not have access to food assistance programs due to the exclusion of immigration status and face downfalls in long-term health and well-being. SB 610 provides a substantial amount of things that would positively affect all communities with access to food. All Oregonians should be able to attain proper nutrition regardless of immigration status.

SB 610 will provide aid for the purchase of food by residents of Oregon, create one seamless application process for federally-funded and state-funded nutrition assistance, maximize enrollment and retention of eligible individuals and provide funding to organizations and community-based groups to deliver culturally specific and targeted outreach. Food and benefit access are inadequate for immigrants and Oregonians alike. Assistance and security play a vital role throughout every community in Oregon.

I have 40 plus years as a Professional Child Care Provider and am a Child advocate, I deliver with a partner at my community food boxes to our community every 2 weeks, we deliver to families with children that have no way to get to a food pantry, and others. No Child for that matter no human should go hungry for any reason. It took me years to find and learn how to use the food pantries in the past, it has become easier but food is harder to find. We need to make it easier for our neighbors in need to access the free food sources. Thank you.

Sincerely Always,  
Marsh M Santoro