

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

On behalf of Risen Community Organization I am writing to express **support for 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.

Hunger was a crisis in our communities well before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly-arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees, and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. Just one example: Latinx and Pacific Islander Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians pre-pandemic¹ – and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living.

Bill 610 is crucially important and impactful to **Risen Community Organization's** mission to provide access to food and resources for the betterment of the community who have resettled here from war conflict regions. Statistically, throughout finding immigrants and refugees, unfortunately, experience food shortages and are struggling to feed their families and are 2x more likely to face hunger than other households. Families are struggling daily, and this bill will help provide a nutritional boost for families to feel better, make better decisions, and be healthy.

At Risen Community Organization, we know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. SB 610 will allow kids to do better in school, our families health and well-being will improve, and our economy will thrive through the support of local businesses. This will be true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

This is why we urge your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Liban Satu
Executive Director

¹https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon_food_insecurity_rates_at_arrival_of_covid_2018-2020.pdf