

Submitter: Maria Mejia-Mata  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB610

Hi, my name is Maria. I am writing in support of this bill because I strongly believe in food being accessible for all. So many people residing in Oregon are in need of food assistance- and many are unable to receive that because of their immigration status. Hunger does not discriminate. Food insecurity can happen to anyone. For a majority of my life, my family has relied on food assistance programs much like SNAP to make ends meet. Without this assistance our family would not have been able to get by. This is the reality for thousands of Oregonians, yet so many cannot receive this assistance they so desperately need. There is this fear in our undocumented community that prevents people from applying even if their children are citizens of the United States. I've heard people say it may mess up their application for residency in the future, or that it could get them in trouble with the government by receiving food assistance that they have no right to receive. Instead they choose to skip a meal or two for their family to eat. If we care about our community and if we want to see a world that relies on one another and extends a hand to help each other, then we must take those steps to ensure that everyone is included. A community that works together is a community that never has to face hunger.