

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB (Senate Bill) 610

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Carmen and I live in Washington County. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 610, Food for All Oregonians, which would ensure all our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

In my family, there was a medical condition that prevented my husband from working fully and instead having to find other minimal jobs to be able to meet our needs. Recently, I have noticed that the price of food has gone up immensely as have other necessities. My family and I cannot buy the same quantity of food due to the increase in prices. My family and I support this legislative proposal, Food for All Oregonians, as it is a basic need. I ask you all to support us in passing this legislative proposal so that there is no lack of food in the homes of us citizens of Oregon.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. It will also make food assistance available to all Oregonians who are currently excluded due to immigration status. And lastly, it will provide families with money for groceries that matches federal SNAP food assistance benefits.

We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is 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 I am urging your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Carmen