

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 Juan 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.

I live with my wife and four children and within the past years, I have seen the need to go to food banks, churches, or wherever food is being donated to feed my family. I have two jobs and my income is not enough to pay for all the bills and that is why I see myself needing to ask for food. I support this proposal of Food for All Oregonians as not all my children qualify for programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Please pass this proposal as it would benefit my family and many families like mine who live in Oregon. We are the ones who prepare our food, and I would like us to be able to also buy our own food rather than trying to make meals from items in food boxes that are unknown to me. I know that there are many other families who are in the same situation as me.

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. In advance thank you for reading my testimony. I know that you will do the right thing to support families to have access to food.

Thank you,

Juan B.