

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB 610

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

My name is Lidia and I live in Washington County, specifically the city of Beaverton. 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 work for the Hillsboro school district in the food pantry at an elementary school. In the last few days, I have seen how parents are increasingly searching for food because they can't afford to buy enough for their families. Most of these families have children from K-12 and most of the time the kids go with their parents to get food. We notice that every day the necessity to have access to food grows and as such, the necessity for children to have access to food. I am in support of this proposal because I have heard how parents always say that only children born in the United States only have the privilege to have access to food. And that should not be the case. Add to this the fact that in March the extra aid given during covid will be withdrawn. This means that more families are going to be struggling and looking for help to obtain food. I know that this proposal will support these families so that they can qualify to buy their food.

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, Food for All Oregonians. Thank you in advance for reading my testimony. I trust you will help us by supporting this bill because Oregon's children are our children of the future.

Thank you,

Lidia