

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 Maria and I live in Washington County, specifically the city of Hillsboro. 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 am low-income and I have two children. Due to the recent rise and prices at the stores, it is difficult for me to buy fruits and vegetables and instead, I buy more food items high in carbs to make food items such as tortillas with frijoles (beans), tortillas with queso (cheese), sopa de arroz (rice soup), without adding any vegetables in my dishes. As you can see my children and I do not eat as nutritiously as we should. By approving this legislative proposal, you would be helping families like mine to have access to the necessary foods we need to live healthier and nutritiously.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) 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.

Thank you,

Maria