

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 Silvia 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.

Even though there are programs to support people, there is not enough to support the most basic element we all need to survive, food. No one should go hungry. This worries us all because every day there are more and more families who do not have access to food. My request is to open more food assistance programs where all people feel safe and not afraid to go to these establishments and that they are given enough information so that they can go with peace of mind and without fear when they need help. Our community is a hard-working group of people and even with a salary of two people, it is not enough to cover all the basic needs. Every day people migrate to Washington County who have nowhere to spend the night. Much less access to food. We can all help make it a reality so that no one goes hungry in our communities.

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,

Silvia