

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB 610

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

My name is Alma and I have lived in Washington County for over 20 years. I am writing in support of Senate Bill SB 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.

Unfortunately, we are going through a time of global pandemic crisis, the cost of rising prices, climate change, and very high rent state-wide. We know that there are people who have secured immigration status in this country and have stable jobs who have a very difficult time accessing food. Now imagine people who do not have any immigration status; it is almost impossible.

SB 610

- Will give people the opportunity to put healthy food on their table and ensure that their children do not go to sleep without food.
- All people regardless of their immigration status will have the opportunity to take part in this program.
- It will prevent parents from having the difficult situation of deciding between buying food, paying rent, or paying for electricity.
- It will help train people to provide better customer service and not put so many obstacles in the way of obtaining food assistance.

As a mother of three children and part of this community for 20 years, I am sure that this is one of the best proposals that the state of Oregon has had since all children deserve to have healthy food on their tables and not worry if they will eat tomorrow. They deserve to focus only on their education and as a mom, my mental health is very important to me to give them a better life, security, and education to my children. The stress of thinking about whether we will be able to have food for our children leads us to a mental state, which can end with serious depression.

I am confident that this proposal will improve the health, education, and welfare of our children in the state of Oregon- which we need to strengthen. And it will also support the most vulnerable community that currently does not have support because of their immigration status. I have neighbors and family that live in this hard situation. We seek that all the states of Oregon from urban cities, rural areas, and suburbs, deserve to have food on their table. If everyone in this state is well, Oregon will continue to prosper and give a prime example to other states to follow.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you my testimony and again respectfully ask for your support by voting yes on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Alma Sanjuan