

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 Elvira Josafat and I live in Washington County. 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.

More than 62,000 Oregonians receive no help from food assistance programs, and they all deserve to have food in their homes every day. Although there have been important changes in Oregon state policy, it leaves many Oregonians without this essential resource. None should be without it, but unfortunately, many residents without legal status are left out of SNAP assistance or food stamps.

In my experience as a food pantry volunteer and coordinator, I realize the lack of food for the most vulnerable families that exist in my community. Every time we have more families looking for food but even the Oregon food bank is not enough because they send less and less food to distribute among families who vary from all ages, children, young adults, and senior citizens. Many children only receive one meal a day from the schools they attend because they have no food in their homes even though their parents work more than two jobs and pay their taxes, they are left out of the services that exist in the state of Oregon and are left without the essential resource that is food.

Fortunately, with your help, we can change this difficult situation for our community, and we can act now to ensure that all Oregon families have food in their homes. When a child is fed quality food, their physical and emotional health improves, and they excel in school. This is why we are proposing legislation to ensure that all Oregon families have access to the food that we all need and that some have, and others do not, even though we all pay taxes.

Thank you very much for your attention and ask for your support by voting yes on this important bill that will impact the community at large.

Sincerely,

Elvira Josafat