

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 Javier 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.

As a resident of Oregon, I have witnessed important steps being taken to improve numerous services such as health, public safety, and human rights.

However, while there are significant investments in the state's food assistance policies, the efforts are not sufficient because they leave out many Oregonians. The programs that exist exclude many communities due to immigration status and other arbitrary factors. Existing food stamp assistance (SNAP) and other programs also exclude:

- Legal residents.
- Participants benefiting from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- Participants benefiting from Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Temporary Protected Status.
- Undocumented immigrants.
- People belonging to the COFA (Compact of Free Association) community.

That is why it is important to step up to ensure that all communities benefit from food assistance. Currently immigrant groups, people of color and many families are now 2 to 3 times more food insecure than Oregon's white communities. We all know that not having access to food assistance and being hungry will impact one's health. When food is available, we all do better, children benefit and their schools do well, our health improves, and local businesses help their economy and become prosperous. That is why I agree that these types of laws should be created and implemented to ensure that all Oregonians have access to food.

If this law (SB-610) is passed, food assistance will be available to all people. It will be possible to obtain money for food purchase or the equivalent of SNAP. And the dissemination to the community and support for people who find out about this program will benefit immensely.

I thank you for your attention and ask for your support by voting yes for this bill.

Sincerely,

Javier