



Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living
1021 SW 5th Ave
Ontario, OR 97914
Voice: (541) 889-3119
Toll-free: 1-844-489-3119
Fax: (541) 889-4647

2023 - 2025

SENATE BILL 610
STATE OF OREGON

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 610. Food For All Oregonians will ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

Hunger was a crisis in our communities well before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees, and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. For example, Latin-X and Pacific Islander Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians pre-pandemic, and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living.

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living is dedicated to providing for communities most disproportionately impacted by food and water insecurity. EOCIL supplies culturally appropriate food items to community members experiencing food insecurity, as well as cultivates and coordinates partnerships with local farmers, food banks, and other community-based organizations.

SB 610 will improve our families' overall health and well-being, and our economy will thrive through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors can receive the food they need, all of Oregon succeeds.

Thus, we urge you to vote "yes" on SB 610.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Chief Research Officer
Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living

Institute for Disability Studies and Policy (IDSP) at EOCIL

Postal Box 940

1021 SW 5th Avenue

Ontario, Oregon 97914

Cell: (575) 749-9500

Voice: (541) 889-3119

Toll-free: 1-844-489-3119

Fax: (541) 889-4647