

Submitter: Amanda Ligon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB610

Food is a human right, and it is because of this simple fact that we must support this bill with our full chests.

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. Just one example: Latinx 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.

If this bill passes, that means over sixty THOUSAND families in our community would gain access to food. Not only does this directly benefit those individuals, but truly our whole community thrives when we all have secure access to food. Kids with full bellies do better in school, the health of families would improve, and our economy would benefit from these improved odds. This will be 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 a wonderful community-driven solution to a huge problem facing so many of our families today, and I urge you to vote yes on SB 610.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amanda Ligon