



HAKI
Community Organization
Humanity | Assistance | Kindness | Interculturalism

February 28, 2023

Re: Yes on SB 610 Oregon Food for All Oregonians

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

On behalf of HAKI Community Organization, I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 610**, Food For All Oregonians.

HAKI Community Organization was created in 2018 as a resource of advocacy, education, and empowerment for Swahili-speaking East Africans immigrants and refugees living in Oregon. Among other activities, we advocate for fresh and culturally specific food for our community members. Hunger is a daily crisis in our community. We work regularly with the Oregon Food Bank, other non-profit organizations, and local government agencies to try to bridge the gap for our immigrant and refugee families who cannot afford food. SB 610 is critical as it would ensure that all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

When our community members have access to healthy food, students do better in school, our families' health and well-being improve, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses.

This is why we urge your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Salim Bahamadi
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