



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in support of SB 610

March 1, 2023

Thank you, Chair Gelser Blouin and members of the Senate Committee On Human Services for receiving my testimony today. For the record, my name is Farrah Chaichi and I am the representative for House District 35. I am writing to express my support for SB 610 which will ensure Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, are able access the SNAP benefits they need to keep their families healthy.

Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. Latinx and Pacific Islander Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians (pre-pandemic). This gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living. I believe that no Oregonian should go hungry. Hunger is a crisis, worsened by COVID-19, and SB 610 aids our immigrant and refugee communities who have been left behind by overly restrictive criteria. We are only as strong as our most forgotten communities. I urge you to vote yes on SB 610.

Respectfully,

Representative Farrah Chaichi
House District 35,
Beaverton & Aloha