

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the Committee on Education:

For the record, I am Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). I am writing in support of HB 3030, which will ensure Healthy School Meals for All Oregon children in K-12 public schools.

OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon families and their children were able to receive free meals at school. Whether this was a lunch bag to-go, consisting of breakfast and lunch meals, or four-day meals (for three-day weekends and the day of pick up), these meals helped many families and children be fed. However, with the federal recognition recognizing the pandemic coming to an end, Oregon families and their children will once again face a conundrum - how to pay for breakfast and lunches for their children.

HB 3030 (with the amendment) provides a pathway for Oregon to work toward a solution to further benefit PK-12 students in our schools. HB 3030 will continue to extend breakfast and lunch to all Oregon residents at no charge through participation in the Community Eligibility Provision, should that become a reality. In addition, the bill will establish a Healthy School Meals for All Task Force to bring

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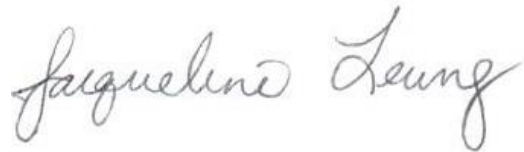
Office Staff

Albert Lee, Executive Director
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together stakeholders to design and recommend a proposal to make it possible for all K-12 Oregon schools to offer breakfast and lunch to students at no charge.

With the number of families and children who will lose free breakfast and lunch, we must be better at ensuring our children do not go to bed hungry. HB 3030 will work to stop this from happening. We strongly urge you to pass HB 3030 to ensure that no Oregon family is left behind.


Sincerely,



Jackie Leung,
Co-Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

503.302.9725 

oaco.mail@oregon.gov 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 