

Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith; Members of the Committee:

My name is Eduardo Melendrez and I live in Ontario Oregon. I am here today in **support of Senate Bill 610**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. Visiting a pantry site in Adrian Oregon I spoke to an undocumented women accessing food and I asked her about the need for food. This lady replied that between working the fields and moving on to sheds there was not enough to buy food. I thanked her for sharing her story and accessing food at the pantry but became sad at the same time. I thought for a moment how can a country that heavily relies on a workforce that many times is undocumented allow folks to go hungry who are the very backbone of this country.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

This is why I am urging your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
**Eduardo Melendrez**