

Support Food for All Oregonians, SB 610

April 21, 2023

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Marisol De La Torre and I am a resident of Albany. I am writing in support of funding Senate Bill 610, Food For All Oregonians.

I have had several interactions with hunger throughout my life. I have studied it, seen it, and experienced it firsthand. Experiencing food insecurity is physically, emotionally, and mentally exhausting. When you are hungry you can hardly think of anything else.

Food insecurity is the condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs. This can manifest itself in rationing food, eating low nutrient dense food, or skipping meals entirely.

Hunger, in a wealthy democracy like ours, is institutionalized violence.

Food is the most basic human right.

Yet, currently, there are thousands of Oregonians experiencing food insecurity that meet the income threshold to qualify for SNAP but are excluded solely because of their immigration status.

Hunger and health are deeply connected. Studies show that people experiencing food insecurity are more likely to develop chronic illnesses and metabolic diseases.¹ Not to mention the negative and long-term effects hunger has on an individual's mental health.

Please fund Senate Bill 610 to ensure that all Oregonians have access to nutritious and culturally familiar food, regardless of where they were born.

Thank you,

Marisol

¹ <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger>