



The Oregon Human Development Corporation is writing 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.

The Oregon Human Development Corporation supports this bill as it addresses food insecurity and food accessibility. SB 610 will welcome all families regardless of immigration status while extending financial support for groceries throughout the state to keep families healthy and well-fed. Hunger was a crisis in our communities before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees, and the Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. An example would be Latinx and Pacific Islander Oregonians who experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians pre-pandemic — and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. It provides a foundation to build on successful, community-driven models to ensure community safety and trust to all. With vital support throughout the community, SB 610 ensures food assistance and security for families.

We know that when we all have access to food, we are all impacted positively. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improve, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses; this is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

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

Sincerely,

Oregon Human Development Corporation