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Respectfully,

I am writing to express my support of the Hunger Free Oregon bill, HB 3089. In my position here at Clatsop Community College, I work with students daily who are food insecure. I did a survey of our students in Spring of 2022 and found that 67% of our students here at Clatsop Community College were food insecure. 55% admitted to not buying a textbook so they could buy food, and 53% of students reported missing a class due to hunger. There is a crisis in our society to the point of an epidemic of people who even if they are on SNAP benefits, are not able to afford enough food. Students who lack consistent access to food resources are 40% less likely to graduate from college. I have seen the usage of our food pantry triple in the last three months since the emergency SNAP benefits went away. We are doing our best to pick up the slack. I have created snack stations on our campus with free healthy snacks for students. These are funded right now by my program funds, which will be ending soon. I have some creative ideas on how to continue to supply these snack stations for our students. They are a huge hit and include fruit and such things as cup a noodle and other items. We only have a small café on our campus that is only open until 1pm Monday through Thursday and not open on Friday. We do not have a cafeteria as we are a community college in a small town. Our students need help to be successful in their studies. They simply will not be successful without it. I have seen students in tears of gratitude due to these snack stations as they were going to class

hungry. Something is definitely wrong with our society when this happens. Lets all join forces and make sure that no student goes to class hungry in our state. Not on our watch.

In Respect and Gratitude,

Katherine Bode, MS