



February 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Testimony in Support Senate Bill 1585**

Dear Chair Gelsner Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,000 supporters statewide. **We strongly support Senate Bill 1585, which would require the Department of Human Services to convene a work group to analyze options available under federal law for a program that allows recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to use the benefits for hot foods, including restaurant meals.**

The SNAP program helps make food available to vulnerable Oregonians. At the ACLU of Oregon, we center our work on individuals and communities in Oregon who are historically disenfranchised and most impacted by systemic inequities. The ACLU of Oregon works to ensure that every person has access to resources and can utilize them.

Many of the hungriest Oregonians who rely on SNAP benefits face the most significant barriers to obtaining adequate nutrition from traditional groceries. Common hurdles they face include the need for specific foods due to special dietary requirements or prescription medications that they must take, as well as a lack of kitchen facilities or the means to prepare and cook meals.

Providing access to pre-made, warm meals will enable SNAP to better sustain more Oregonians, including our houseless community and community with disabilities.

By passing Senate Bill 1585, you can expand the reach of SNAP so people who have been unable to utilize the program will be able to access more nutritious, diverse diets. **The ACLU of Oregon urges your support for Senate Bill 1585 and asks you to pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,

**Emily-Grace Cropper-Russel**, Donor Engagement Officer

For more questions, please email Jessica Maravilla, Policy Director at [jmaravilla@aclu-or.org](mailto:jmaravilla@aclu-or.org)