

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Andrea Williams, President of Oregon Food Bank
RE: SB 644
DATE: February 4, 2025



Chair Gelser Blouin and members of the committee,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is "to eliminate hunger and its root causes... *because no one should be hungry,*" and we are immensely proud of our work to fulfill this mission. Last year alone, through our network of over 1200+ community-based food pantries, meal sites, and programs, we distributed over 91 million meals (nearly 110 million pounds of food). This massive scale food distribution effort served 2.5 million visits at our food assistant sites, marking a 31% increase compared to the prior year.

We also know that food distribution alone will never solve hunger. That's why our work includes supporting community food systems, healthcare partnerships, education programs, as well as organizing and policy advocacy related to our mission. We are proud of our advocacy efforts that have helped reduce child hunger at schools and in the summer months, protect SNAP, and strengthen the well-being of communities that face high rates of hunger.

Oregon Food Bank's Audits and IRS Forms are already publicly available

We believe strongly in providing transparency in how we advance our mission to end hunger and its root causes. That's why our audits have been easy to find on our website for many years. Similarly, as a nonprofit 501c3 organization, our annual IRS returns are available for public inspection. Our audits and IRS returns can be found at <https://www.oregonfoodbank.org/about-us/reports-publications>.

We believe it is right and fair that organizations like ours undergo legally required audits and make their annual IRS returns publicly available. We find it unfortunate, however, that SB 644 would create a duplicative and frivolous audit that would take resources away from our mission to end hunger - as well as resources away from the state - at a time when hunger is on the rise. Furthermore, we believe it would set an unfortunate and damaging precedent that, if an organization lawfully advocates for policies and legislation on behalf of the people they serve, they risk a retaliatory and onerous audit by the legislature. For these reasons, we believe you should oppose SB 644.

To help connect Oregonians facing hunger with free groceries, meals, or places to double your SNAP EBT benefits near you, please share our Food Finder tool (available in 19 languages) at <https://foodfinder.oregonfoodbank.org/>.

Oregon Food Bank
Headquarters /
Metro Services
7900 NE 33rd Drive
Portland, OR 97211
503-282-0555

Oregon Food Bank
Washington County
Services
1870 NW 173rd Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006
503-439-6510

Oregon Food Bank
Tillamook County
Services
PO Box 1344
Tillamook, OR 97141
503-842-3154

Oregon Food Bank
Southeast Oregon
Services
773 S Oregon Street
Ontario, OR 97914
541-889-9206

Columbia Gorge
Food Bank
3610 Crates Way
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2333

