

February 13, 2025

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's Children's Agenda

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3435

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO). I am writing on behalf of The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, which brings together a coalition of more than 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing in Oregon.

HB 3435, School Meals for All, is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

In 2022, **17.3% of Oregon children experienced food insecurity** (*Annie E. Casey Kids Count [Data Cards](#)*).

Reducing childhood hunger is a high priority for voters—eight in ten Oregon voters support state spending to ensure free breakfast and lunch for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, according to the results of a new statewide public opinion poll conducted by [GBAQ](#), a national polling firm with extensive experience polling in Oregon. **This new data strengthens the case for House Bill 3435, state legislation that would ensure every public school student has access to free breakfast and lunch.**

The strongest message in favor of no-cost meals focused on support for working families, that addressing hunger is critical to learning, and improving student performance. Studies overwhelmingly show that School Meals for All policies provide far-reaching benefits, from physical health to academic and cognitive improvements, even compared to students who have access to food at home.

We appreciate the work you do for Oregon's children and families and we strongly urge you to **vote YES on HB 3435, School Meals for All.**

Our Children Oregon
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Baby Blues Connection
Beyond Toxics
Black Parent Initiative
Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing
Children's Institute
Next Up Action Fund
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon PTA
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland
Vision To Learn
Washington County Kids

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