

Submitter: Ryan Wood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3435
TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Wood
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3435

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

My name is Ryan Wood. I am an Oregon resident and I'm submitting testimony in support of House Bill 3435, School Meals for all, to ensure that all students in Oregon schools have access to the quality food they need to succeed in school.

I am grateful to have grown up in a stable home that was always able to provide for my food needs. It's this gratitude that compels me to support opportunities to ensure that all children have the same benefit. I ask that you reflect on whether or not you also had such a benefit as a child. If you did, take a moment to imagine how difficult your school days would have been working without adequate nutrition and distracted by hunger. If you had the benefit of quality food, please consider if you and I were more worthy of quality food than other children. I cannot think of a convincing reason that any child should be considered more worthy of quality food than any other.

Oregon is already providing access to quality food to the overwhelming majority of students. This is a very remarkable achievement for the state and something we should be proud of. In fact, because of the excellent progress so far, the cost of ensuring that all students have access to quality food is quite small. Oregon can easily fund this effort utilizing some of a forecasted surplus from the Student Success Act and the Corporate Activity Tax.

This is also incredibly popular policy. An overwhelming number of Oregonians support providing quality food for children in school.

HB 3435 is an excellent opportunity for you as legislators. It is a bill that allows you to accomplish something incredibly important, something that is morally right, something that is very affordable and easy to fund, and something that is immensely popular with your constituents.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,
Ryan Wood