



LISA FRAGALA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 8
FROM THE WILLAMETTE RIVER TO SPENCER BUTTE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 22, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 3435 in the House Committee on Education

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

As an educator who taught both Kindergarten and 2nd grade for 25 years I'm writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 3435** which will establish the requirement that school districts offer lunch and breakfast to all students at no charge, regardless of income. It is a thoughtful approach that phases in requirements and provides both resources and technical supports to school districts.

According to a report on Food Insecurity in the state of Oregon, more than 300,000 children (14.6 percent) experience food insecurity. No child should experience this reality, but it is a sad truth that hunger remains a persistent challenge for many children in Oregon. As an elementary educator, I've seen up close the impacts food insecurity has on the students I've worked with and watched how simply leaving a snack on a child's desk lights up their face when they return from recess.

When a child attends school hungry, it adds additional barriers to their overall success at school and they can fall behind academically. A lack of adequate nutrition impacts students cognitively, emotionally, and physically. On the other hand, access to a nutritious breakfast to start the day can increase a child's chances of success. Studies show that students who eat breakfast increase their math and reading scores and demonstrate a better ability to focus. It has also been shown to have a positive impact on absenteeism and behavioral incidents.

Please join me in supporting this important initiative that is long overdue. HB 3435 is an opportunity to improve the health and well being of Oregon's children. It ensures that students continue to thrive in Oregon's classrooms by providing all students the benefit of a free breakfast and lunch at school.

I appreciate Representative Neron's leadership and advocacy on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss HB 3435 and the important impacts it can have on students in Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Lisa Fragala

