



February 24, 2025

Re: Please vote yes on HB 3435, School Meals for All

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to urge you to vote yes on HB 3435, School Meals for All. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon. Our members collaborate to protect democracy. Education is an important cornerstone of our democracy, and helping our school children to thrive, to get the best education possible, should be the priority of every legislator.

This is such a small ask for our school children: School lunches and breakfasts offered at school at no cost to the children and their families. COIN joins groups from all across the state in urging you to pass this legislation.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kfK9zcrQI59a3C4QgDYP-r4H3yVAQM5Z> This will save families about \$1441 per school child each year. (Source: School Meals for All Coalition)

More than that, studies show - and this is probably obvious regardless - that children's academic performance and behavior are greatly improved if they are not hungry. They are also healthier!

1 in 6 Oregon children go to bed hungry. We can help by making sure those children in school have access to breakfast and lunch. An important feature of this bill, HB 3435, is the emphasis on nutritional standards that must be met in providing these meals.

Let's give our school children their best chance to thrive. Oregon's future depends on it. Providing them with no cost meals at school is a small step we can take to help them live, be healthy, and focus on education. Please vote yes on HB 3435.

Laura Allen

On behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)  
Oregon