

Submitter: Caitlin Seyfried
On Behalf Of: Oregon Food Bank
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611 Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Caitlin Seyfried and I live in Astoria, OR. I am a farm hand and food systems consultant. In Oregon, I have worked at a food bank and a small nonprofit supporting local food systems. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. Oregonians of all ages and backgrounds can only thrive when food is accessible. Adequate nutrition is a human right in a world where we have enough to go around. With adequate nutrition, kids can show up to school more often and participate fully in their future. With adequate nutrition, our elder population can experience better health outcomes and quality of life. These populations are some of our most vulnerable and hidden because struggling to access food can be hard to talk about. But those struggles are failings and blind spots of our society and social services. No one would blame a hungry kid for their own hardships finding enough food. Preventing our communities from getting the good food they need will only set Oregon back. Whereas supporting programs like Food for All Oregonians will strengthen Oregon and make us a leader in the US, addressing hunger with humanity and care. The future I see for Oregon is one in which every Oregonian is able to access the good food they need to thrive. To get to that future, we need programming to provide immediate relief and support to our most vulnerable populations. I ask for you to support SB 611 to help provide vital food and nutrition to Oregonian youth and elders. Thank you, Caitlin Seyfried Astoria, OR