

Submitter: Hannah Joseph
On Behalf Of: Seed to Table Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Hannah Joseph, Program Director at Seed to Table Oregon. Seed to Table Oregon is 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. As a non-profit committed to increasing the health and wellness of the Central Oregon community, we see the power of having reliable access to fresh foods for all members of our community, regardless of documentation status. Food is a Human Right. Our freedom, our health, our ability to thrive all depend on access to food that is nutritious and culturally familiar. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives. We have farmworkers who are planting, growing, and harvesting the very foods that nourish all of us, and yet they cannot access these foods themselves or their families. Food for All helps to ensure that immigration status no longer drives hunger and poverty in our communities, and it will allow all members of our communities to thrive. We strongly urge you to support SB 611. Sincerely,
Hannah Joseph