



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION of OREGON

Invest in Women. Invest in Oregon. Invest in Change.

March 2, 2025

Subject: Support for SB 611 – Food for All Oregonians Program

Dear Senator Campos, Representative Ruiz,

On behalf of the Women's Foundation of Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 611, which establishes the Food for All Oregonians Program within the Department of Human Services. This critical legislation will extend nutrition assistance to Oregon residents who would otherwise qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but are excluded due to their immigration status. As an advocate for gender and racial justice, and in alignment with the findings of the *Count Her In* report, I urge you to support this bill to address food insecurity and ensure that every Oregonian has access to the nourishment they need to thrive.

The *Count Her In* report, a landmark study on the experiences of women and girls in Oregon, highlights the deep inequities that persist in our communities, particularly for immigrant women and families. The report underscores how economic instability, racial and gender disparities, and systemic barriers exacerbate food insecurity. Immigrant women, who already face significant challenges in accessing stable employment and affordable healthcare, are disproportionately affected by hunger. Ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to food assistance is a necessary step toward equity and justice.

Food insecurity is not just a policy issue; it is a moral imperative. Nearly one in five Oregonians experience food insecurity, and the exclusion of immigrant families from SNAP only deepens disparities. By passing SB 611, Oregon can lead the way in ensuring that every family—regardless of their documentation status—has the dignity of putting food on the table. Moreover, this bill aligns with Oregon's values of equity and inclusion, reaffirming that we do not leave any of our neighbors behind.

Investing in food assistance programs strengthens our entire state. Studies show that providing consistent access to nutrition improves health outcomes, boosts children's academic success, and fosters economic stability. SB 611 would not only alleviate immediate food insecurity but also contribute to long-term positive outcomes for Oregon's families and communities.



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I respectfully urge you to support SB 611 and work to ensure its passage. No one in Oregon should go hungry because of their immigration status. Let's stand together to create a state where every resident has the nourishment they need to live with dignity and opportunity.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to a more just and equitable Oregon. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and offer any support necessary to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Libra Forde

Executive Director

Women's Foundation of Oregon