

Submitter: Donna Markle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Dear Committee Members,

I am a retired nurse and nursing faculty. In my 30 years of nursing, I have seen the impact of poor nutrition and lack of access to food on health, productivity and learning. The most vulnerable populations are the young and old. Having access to good nutrition enhances learning, health outcomes and the ability to work. The is current concern that school lunch programs might be cut or cancelled. In some schools in Southern Oregon, that would leave 80-90% of school age children without adequate food. There is an active campaign in the Rogue Valley to provide food to food banks, but this does not cover the need and many do not have transportation to get food at donation sites. This is currently even more dire as many are fearful of ICE. I believe that is our states population is healthy, the overall state benefits. There can be savings in preventing chronic illness and reducing the need for medical intervention.

I believe we need to support the people who harvest our crops. Many are excluded from services for food. Please support SB 611 and make our state stronger and insure the future of our children.

Thank you for your consideration,
Donna Markle Retired RN, MSN