



03/02/2025

To: Human Services Committee

From: David Wieland, Policy Advocate, Partners For a Hunger-Free Oregon

RE: Support HB 3201

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

I am David Wieland, a Policy Advocate with Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO) speaking in support of HB 3201.

As Oregon works year over year to end child hunger, we rely on a complex web of federal, state, and local supports. The child and adult care feeding program is an unsung hero of our network of supports to ensure children in Oregon don't go hungry. From after school at-risk programs that serve a full meal to students to agencies serving hot meals to unhoused youth to hundreds of home-based child care centers, the program touches children across the state in a variety of different settings.

As Oregon has moved to no cost school meal programs at most schools in the state, we've seen districts adopt the NSLP after school snack and leave the CACFP program. It's simple – the CACFP reimbursement isn't enough to make it work. This reimbursement provides a smaller meal to after-school program participants while the CACFP program provides a whole meal.

What's unique about the proposed legislation in front of you is that we've seen the impact of these small but meaningful incentives. The proposal mirrors pandemic era supports that stabilize program participation and ensured nutritious meals made it to children who needed them most.

HB 3201 addresses a consistent challenge – serving meals that are culturally relevant and meet USDA's high standards and regulations for meal service. We have spoken with numerous providers, particularly home based childcare providers, that would participate in the program if there was clear guidance on how to serve reimbursable meals that match what families want. Those are children in care who receive less food or families that shoulder the cost, and federal dollars that aren't spent in Oregon.

One last note – Oregon's F2S programs work with CACFP. But providers can't invest their dollars in Oregon producers when the reimbursement can only support the lowest cost ingredients.

We dream about an Oregon where children always have access to nutritious and culturally relevant food. HB 3201 helps leverage federal dollars to shift towards that reality for more children and families. We urge your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
David Wieland
Policy Advocate
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon