

Submitter: Barbara Fields
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

I am a senior citizen. I am fortunate to live in a residential care facility where my meals are provided. However, I volunteer twice a month at a food pantry. I see first hand how many older people need help getting enough food to eat. These are probably people who have worked their whole lives and now find that they are getting priced out of paying rent and utilities and also buying food. There are also a lot more people coming than when I started volunteering a couple of years ago. Another factor is that many of the elders are immigrants. They are precluded from getting government assistance and they have nowhere else to turn. Like every state, Oregon has fiscal problems. But we should be able to at least help ALL folks, especially seniors, to get enough nutritious food to eat. Whether they were born and raised in Portland or China, it is uncivilized and inhumane to prevent people from having enough food, especially if it is based on where they were born. Our neighbors who come to us for food are so grateful, but we as citizens of Oregon need to do more. Our laws should reflect our firm belief that each person in the state deserves to eat food that will sustain them. Please pass Senate Bill 611 so that EVERY person, especially seniors, will not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. Thank you.