Submitter: Shari Preston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

I volunteer at our food pantry in the Dallas, Oregon named Wendy River cleaners. We are in a very low income town with live seniors families of all nationalities and a lot of homeless. If it wasn't for us to be giving out food every week there would be so many people going hungry because they're having to figure out what bills they pay what medications they can get filled and still pay for rent utilities and food. We serve from 136 to 170 families a week. we have a big amount of homeless folks that if it wasn't for us, they wouldn't have nothing to eat. no one should have to go hungry no matter who you are. No one should have to try to decide what medications they can get so they can buy food. what we do is a big impact on people's lives and is very very much needed in our community and the others. with the price of food the way it is anymore. People can't afford enough food from paycheck to paycheck and I'm scared it's not going to get any better like I said we have a community of our nationalities from White to African-American to Native Americans to Hispanics to Chinese to Japanese and we are one community that worries about each other and how to feed our community without the help that we are getting, I'm honored to say I am the president of our food pantry and I see weekly the impact of what we do and how it helps every family that goes through and how gracious they are if it's a family of one or a family of eight they come in and they say thank you we wouldn't be able to make it through the week without this. We have had mothers before they start coming in saying they haven't had food for days and didn't know what to do. It breaks my heart as we are a small community with a lot of low income people and it's not their fault they try so I hope this all helps letting you know that what we do with the food that we get from the money that we get for the food how a big impact it is for our community.