Submitter:	Carter McKenzie
On Behalf Of:	Springfield-Eugene SURJ
Committee:	Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB611

To: Senate Committee on Human Services From: Springfield-Eugene SURJ/Showing Up for Racial Justice Subject: Yes on SB 611 Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter McKenzie (she, her), and I have been an active member of Springfield-Eugene SURJ since the chapter was founded in 2015. Springfield-Eugene SURJ is in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, which would ensure Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. As an organization, SURJ is called to educate and organize white-bodied people for the work of dismantling oppressive systems of white supremacy, as part of a multi-racial and multicultural collective for humanity and justice. We recognize food insecurity as one of many devastating symptoms of deeply entrenched inequities in our society. Food is a fundamental human right, no matter where you were born. Quality food is necessary for physical and mental well being, and for having a sense of belonging. SB 611 would provide critical and culturally sensitive support to communities currently and unjustly excluded from food access because of their immigrant status. Speaking as one who has never experienced food insecurity, I cannot go shopping for food these days without thinking about the difficulties of food access experienced by members of my community, young and old. This lack of access to food must not be ignored or tolerated. If we deny others the right to food access, we perpetuate a system of exclusion that will hurt us all in the end. There is mutual interest in building systems of justice for the common good. Assuring people food access through fair legislation will help communities thrive. Springfield-Eugene SURJ urges you to support SB 611. Thank you. Carter McKenzie, Springfield-Eugene SURJ