



**TO:** Senate Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Consejo Hispano

**SUBJECT:** Yes on SB 611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenny Pool Radway, and I am the Executive Director at Consejo Hispano. We are writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, which would ensure that youth and elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to stay healthy and support their families.

As an organization committed to serving and empowering the Latinx immigrant community on Oregon's North Coast, Consejo Hispano has witnessed firsthand the profound impacts of food insecurity on vulnerable populations. Many of the families and individuals we work with face significant barriers to accessing food assistance, not because they lack need, but because immigration status excludes them from programs like SNAP. This exclusion disproportionately affects those who are already contributing to Oregon's economy and infrastructure—individuals who work in essential industries such as agriculture, healthcare, and childcare.

Hunger does not discriminate, and no one should go without food in a state as resource-rich as Oregon. Yet, as the pandemic and rising costs of living exacerbate existing inequities, immigrant and refugee communities find themselves at an even greater disadvantage. Without access to food assistance, families are forced to make impossible choices between feeding their children, paying rent, or covering healthcare costs. These choices directly impact community health, school attendance, and long-term economic stability.

The Food for All Oregonians initiative offers a solution. By expanding food assistance to youth and elders regardless of immigration status, this legislation addresses systemic inequities while ensuring our most vulnerable populations—our future and our past—have the nourishment they need to thrive. As a direct service provider, Consejo Hispano has seen the growing demand for resources and support among the communities we serve. With SB 611, we could better assist these families and alleviate the hunger crisis that disproportionately affects Latinx and immigrant communities.

Furthermore, programs like SNAP are proven to improve health outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, support educational performance, and lower the risk of eviction. Extending these benefits to



immigrant youth and elders would not only meet an urgent humanitarian need but also strengthen Oregon's communities and economy as a whole.

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, we urge you to pass SB 611 and take this critical step toward ensuring no Oregonian goes hungry. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Pool Radway  
Executive Director  
Consejo Hispano