

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Brusa and I am a resident of Marion County. I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 611. While the intent behind the bill is commendable in seeking to expand nutrition assistance, I believe it could lead to unintended consequences that would negatively impact our state's resources, economic stability, and overall welfare system.

As a former single mom, I know firsthand the importance of food assistance. There was a time when I relied on SNAP to feed my children, and it was an essential lifeline that allowed me to ensure my family was nourished. However, while I understand the need to support all individuals in our community, I must also consider the broader implications of extending such programs to individuals who do not have legal status.

The expansion proposed in this bill could place a significant strain on Oregon's already limited resources. We are facing considerable budgetary challenges, and extending eligibility for nutrition assistance to individuals who are ineligible for federal programs like SNAP could exacerbate these challenges, potentially diverting resources from other critical services that benefit all Oregonians.

Additionally, extending these benefits to non-citizens could create a scenario where citizens and legal residents who have contributed to Oregon's economy and social structure may face delays or reductions in the assistance they depend on. As someone who has relied on SNAP, I believe it's crucial that our resources prioritize residents who have legal standing in the U.S. and who need help the most. Stretching our resources thin could ultimately undermine the effectiveness of the very programs designed to support the most vulnerable in our society.

Moreover, this bill could lead to an unsustainable increase in the demand for social services in Oregon. While the intent to assist non-citizens is admirable, we must balance that with a thoughtful approach to our state's welfare system to ensure its long-term sustainability.

In conclusion, while I understand the desire to support everyone in our community, I urge you to reconsider the broader implications of Senate Bill 611. Expanding the eligibility for nutrition assistance to non-citizens could place an undue burden on our state's resources, potentially affecting citizens who have contributed to the state and need help to ensure the health and well-being of their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Brusa