

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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We are awash in an abundance of food. And most of my life, I had never worried about access to sufficient food. But for a couple of years when I went back to get a required Masters degree, what I could earn as a graduate student didn't cover all the bills plus food. So I turned to what was then called Harvest Share through the Oregon Food Bank. That program was a lifesaver. More important, though, I got to meet a whole range of people from many communities and situations while standing in line. It was an education in how a country that can waste up to 30% of its food resources on a daily basis still has hundreds of families relying on free programs to stay alive. I was so grateful for the help and also so embarrassed to see so many in need. Later on when I had time, I volunteered at the Food Bank packaging the very same staples I had relied on years before. I continue to be ashamed that a nation drowning in food cannot manage to feed all the children in our community in need, regardless of who their parents are and how they got here. And from a completely practical angle, healthy, well-nourished children protect us all against costly future medical and social problems that come as a result of doing nothing. As an educator, I have seen the impact of providing weekly food boxes to students and their families. It is dramatic and heartening. We can't afford NOT to pass Food for All Oregonians as soon as possible.