

Submitter: Juli Joy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

My name is Juli Ray C. Joy and I am here today in strong support of Oregon's Food for All Bill. As someone who runs a community farm, I have witnessed firsthand the impact that food insecurity has on our communities, particularly among historically marginalized populations. No one in Oregon should have to choose between feeding their family and paying their rent, yet that is the reality for too many of our neighbors. The Food for All Bill is a critical step toward ensuring that every Oregonian has access to nutritious and culturally relevant food, regardless of their immigration status. Currently, thousands of Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance programs due to arbitrary eligibility restrictions. These individuals, including working families, seniors, and children, contribute to our economy and communities yet face unnecessary barriers to accessing the food they need to thrive. As we continue to recover from the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to address food insecurity comprehensively. Oregon has long been a leader in equity and inclusion, and this bill upholds those values by extending food assistance to all residents who call our state home. Studies have consistently shown that access to food assistance improves health outcomes, supports educational achievement, and strengthens local economies by keeping dollars in our communities. Moreover, investing in food security now will reduce long-term healthcare costs, emergency food assistance needs, and the broader economic strains associated with hunger. When families have access to food, they are better equipped to contribute positively to society, work productively, and support the growth and well-being of their children. Passing Oregon's Food for All Bill is not just a moral imperative—it is an economic and public health necessity. I urge you to vote in favor of this legislation and help ensure that Oregon leads the way in creating a just and food-secure future for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.